

City of Willoughby Hills

Council
CHRISTOPHER L. BIRO
DAVID M. FIEBIG
JENNIFER SOMMERS GREER
CHRISTOPHER HALLUM
JOHN PLECNİK

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2015

All Council Meetings shall be recorded by audio recording device and will be held in perpetuity and shall be part of the official records and minutes. Written minutes of Council shall be shortened whenever possible.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by President Raymond C. Somich

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Council

Members Present: Councilman Christopher Hallum, Councilman John Plecnik, President Raymond C. Somich, Councilman Christopher L. Biro, Councilwoman Jennifer Sommers Greer

Absent: Vice President Nancy E. Fellows, Councilman David M. Fiebig

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

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BIRO, seconded by Councilman Plecnik to excuse Vice President Nancy E. Fellows and Councilman Fiebig from the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 2015.

Roll Call: 5 AYES – unanimous MOTION PASSES

President Somich stated that Vice President Nancy E. Fellows and Councilman Fiebig have been excused from the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 2015.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BIRO, seconded by Councilman Hallum to appoint Councilwoman Greer to serve as Vice-President of Council Pro-tem for the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 2015.

Roll Call: Hallum-yes, Plecnik-yes, Somich-yes, Biro-yes, Greer-abstain

MOTION PASSES: 4-AYES/1-ABSTENTION

President Somich stated that Councilwoman Greer has been appointed to serve as Vice-President of Council Pro-tem for the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 2015.

President Somich acknowledged in our audience this evening, a special guest **Joseph Jenkins he is the Affairs Specialist for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District/Government Affairs**. President Somich thanked him for being with us this evening. President Somich went on to say that as you can, from some of the members of the news media that are right outside our door, we are having some, not sewer issues, but certainly some water issues here in our community, so we would simply like to acknowledge those in our community that are suffering this evening, those that have already been flooded, those that are in danger of being flooded that perhaps have even left their homes; our thoughts and our prayers with you and we are hopeful that it will subside for you and you can get back to some normalcy in your life.

Disposition of the Journal

Special Council Meeting of January 28, 2015

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BIRO, seconded by Councilman Hallum to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2015 as submitted.

Roll Call: 5 AYES – unanimous **MOTION PASSES**
President Somich stated that the Special Council Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2015 have been approved as submitted.

Regular Council Meeting of February 12, 2015

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BIRO, seconded by Councilman Hallum to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2015 as submitted.

Roll Call: 5 AYES – unanimous **MOTION PASSES**
President Somich stated that the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2015 have been approved as submitted.

Regular Council Meeting of February 26, 2015

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BIRO, seconded by Councilman Hallum to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2015 as submitted.

Roll Call: 5 AYES – unanimous **MOTION PASSES**
President Somich stated that the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2015 have been approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from City of Willoughby Clerk of Council dated February 24, 2015 re: City of Willoughby Ordinance – Amending Sanitary Sewerage System Charges (Emailed: March 10, 2015)
WH Community Center Rental Summary Report for February 2015 (Emailed: March 3, 2015)
City Engineer’s Report dated March 5, 2015 (Emailed: March 6, 2015)
Mayor’s Court Monthly Statement to City Council of Fines and Other Monies Received or Collected for the Month Ended February 2015 (Emailed: March 10, 2015)

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 2015 CONSISTING OF: GENERAL FUND INCOME STATEMENT, CASH RECONCILIATION, PURCHASE ORDER REPORTS, FUND ANALYSIS REPORTS, AND EXPENSE REPORTS (Emailed: February 27, 2015)

NOTIFICATIONS

Civil Service Commission Meeting of March 5, 2015 (Emailed: March 2, 2015)
Recreation Commission Meeting scheduled for February 11, 2015 (Emailed: February 10, 2015)
Recreation Commission Meeting scheduled for March 4, 2015 (Emailed: March 3, 2015)
Planning & Zoning Commission and Architectural Board of Review Meeting of March 5, 2015 (Emailed: March 2, 2015)
Special Meeting of the Service Committee of Council scheduled for March 9, 2015 (Emailed: March 3, 2015)

RECREATION COMMISSION PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2015 (Emailed: March 12, 2015)

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting of February 22, 2015 (Emailed: March 5, 2015)
SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2015 (Emailed: March 12, 2015)
SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2015 (Emailed: March 12, 2015)

ON FILE

WH Senior Center News Letter for March 2015, Issue Number 83

MAYOR’S REPORT – Robert M. Weger

Update on Flooding down on Trailard Drive – the flooding is subsiding but please be careful out there because the water is only down about eighteen inches and we expect rain tomorrow and Saturday, so at any moment it could get very large again and the flooding will continue. The ice jam is still an ice jam and the

likely hood of it breaking up soon is unlikely, so what we are doing, the Police and the Fire Departments, they are on the alert and they will have a reverse 911 going out and it is going to say have your bag ready in case you have to leave quickly. The reason for this is that yesterday at 5-6:00 it was fine the river wasn't flooding; at 8:00 it was 15 feet over flood stage, it can happen very quickly so we urge the people that have evacuated and those that stayed to be ready to leave in a moment's notice.

Trash & Recycle Contract is on tonight's agenda – I appreciate Council's quick approval on this so as the residents will see a reduction in their April quarterly billings

Charter Review Commission – Public Hearing on Monday, March 16th – 7pm in Council Chambers – Public is welcome to come and present any Charter concerns to the Commission

Chuck holes are being addressed by the Service Department. Reminder to drive slowly and be careful until weather permits us to make permanent repairs.

Acknowledgements:

Congratulations to Firefighter LT Patty Heller on 25 years of service. I saw her last night at the flood, she was in her gear and she was manning the boat and she was constantly moving and it's over 25 years that she has seen one or two of these floods that occurred. So congratulations to Patty Heller.

Welcome our guest to this evening's Council Meeting – Mr. Joseph Jenkins, Government Affairs Specialist with the NE Ohio Regional Sewer District

Events:

WH Lion's Club – Pancake Breakfast this Sunday, March 14th from 8:30am to 1:30pm

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Thomas G. Lobe

Requesting an Executive Session be called this evening for the purchase of potential real estate purchase, inviting all the Members of Council, the Law Director, the Mayor, the Finance Director, the City Engineer, and even the Service Director for a time not exceed 30 minutes. The Law Director stated that he does not expect any action whatsoever again for those in the audience he does not expect there to be any action after. Please do this at a time most convenient for Council, assuming after For the Good of the Order and right before Adjournment.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Frank J. Brichacek, Jr.

Finance Director provided the following Report:

Recently, a report has been circulating in the City that leaves the impression that the City will have a deficit balance of \$560,000 in its General fund by the end of 2015. In fact, the City's proposed 2015 General Fund Budget projects that the City will end 2015 with an unobligated General fund Balance of \$617,816.

The City's General Fund Balance is the cumulative difference between the total operating revenue (such as property taxes, income tax, local government funding from the State of Ohio, fees, etc.) that it received from the first day Willoughby Hills became a Village through December 31, 2014 and the amount the city spent to deliver services over that same period of time. In laymen's terms, it is comparable to an individual's savings account. At the end of 2014, the City had an unobligated General fund Balance (i.e. the amount of cash the City has in the bank minus any bills the City incurred but had not paid as of December 31, 2014) of \$1,178,616.

The City's 2015 Budget is projecting that the City's General Fund will receive \$6,106,000 from its various sources of income (primarily income and property taxes, assistance from the State of Ohio and fines and court cost reimbursements collected by the Mayor's Court). The 2015 Budget is also projecting that the City will have General Fund expenses of \$6,666,800. This means that the City is project that its expense will exceed its revenue by \$560,800. As a result, the City's 2015 Budget is projecting that the General Fund's unobligated fund balance at the end of 2015 will be reduced from the \$1,178,616 it was at the start of 2015 to \$617,816 at the end of 2015. As you can see, the City will clearly end 2015 with a positive, not a negative, General Fund Balance.

Why is the City projecting that it will reduce its General Fund Balance by approximately \$560,800 from the end of 2014 to the end of 2015? This situation is mainly the result of the following:

- **Reduction in funding provided by the State of Ohio** – The State, in order to balance its own budget, has reduced the amount of annual funding it provides to the City by approximately \$805,000, from the amount it provided to the City in 2007. This change alone would balance the difference between the City's operating revenue and operating expenses.

- **Resurfacing of Pleasant Valley Road** – The 2015 General Fund Budget provides \$217,200 in funding for the resurfacing of this road. This project could be deferred until a future budget.
- Restriping of City Streets – The 2015 General fund Budget provides \$68,300 in funding to repaint the markings on the City's Streets. This project could be deferred until a future budget.
- **Pleasant Valley Bridge Maintenance** – The 2015 budget provides \$85,000 for this project. The funding for this project comes from the City's License Plate Registration Fee. Rather than dedicating this revenue source to the maintenance of the bridge, City Council could return this revenue to the general road maintenance budget thereby reducing the General Fund's operating deficit by \$85,000.
 - **Road Salt** – The price of road salt increase to \$80 per ton versus the \$39 and \$32 per ton the City paid in 2014 and 2013 respectively. To keep the City's streets free of snow and salt in 2015 at a level similar to 2014 and 2013, the General Fund 2015 subsidy to the City's road program has been increased by approximately \$124,000 over the amount budgeted in 2014. The City has two other options to make the increase in the projected cost of road salt budget neutral:
 - Reduce the amount of salt spread on City streets
 - Cut other portions of the road maintenance budget and maintain the City's road at a lower standard than is currently acceptable.

The cost of the three major projects listed total nearly \$371,000 and the increase in the cost road salt totals \$124,000. While it is the responsibility of the Administration to prepare and present the 2015 Operating Budget, it is ultimately City Council's responsibility to review, and amend if necessary and adopt the 2015 Operating Budget. The City administration is of the opinion that all of the listed above as well as the rest of the items proposed in the 2015 Proposed Operating Budget Document are necessary for both the short and the long-term good of the community. The City began 2015 with a healthy General fund Balance. It would be irresponsible not use a portion of this balance to finance these projects.

These unusual items account for nearly the entire projected 2015 shortfall in operating revenues vs. operating expenses. Had the State of Ohio left its local government funding formulas alone, the City would have approximately \$800,000 in additional operating revenue to fund its 2015 budget, without having to consider not moving forward with these projects.

It should be noted that in addition to the above projects, the City's proposed 2015 Operating Budget provides for the replacement of the following pieces of equipment

- Fire Department - \$110,000 for one ambulance
- Police Department - \$107,000 for three vehicles
- Service Department - \$150,000 for one snowplow

As you can see, the City did not lose track of any of its assets between the end of 2014 and February 2015 as has been rumored. All of the information cited in this report to Council has been previously reported publicly and is contained in great detail the City's 2015 Proposed Budget Document which has been available to the public on the City's website (www.wiloughbyhills-oh.gov) since the 2015 Proposed Budget Document was first presented by the Administration to City Council at the February 23rd, 2015 Finance Committee Meeting.

In addition to the 2015 Proposed Budget Document, during all 2014 and continuing to the present City Council is provided by the Administration with financial reports on a monthly basis so that they are aware of the City's current financial activity. These reports are also posted on the City's website for public inspection at the same time that the reports are presented to City Council for review.

The State Auditor expressed unqualified opinions on the City's 2011 and 2012 financial reports. The State is currently conducting its audit of 2013 and 2014. It is anticipated by the Administration that the Auditor will again express an unqualified opinion on these financial statements.

Based upon all of these factors cited above it is the position of the Administration that the City's budgeting practices and financial reporting have been and will continue to be transparent, fair and accurate. It is intentionally misleading for anyone to say otherwise.

Should you or any member of City Council have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me. I strongly feel that the City's financial information should be accurately and fairly reported and presented in a manner that is understandable to both City Council and the Citizens of the City of Willoughby Hills.

Councilman Plecnik: Mr. Director, did I hear you correctly when you said that we are slated to spend approximately, or I should say, more than half a million dollars than we have planned to take in for the 2015 budget, yes or no. **Finance Director:** That is exactly what I said.

Councilman Plecnik: So we are going to spend more than a half a million than we take in and that's what I would and I think what most residents would define as a deficit budget, so I don't think that's intentionally misleading in anyway shape or form and I personally....**Finance Director:** The report....**President Somich:** Mr. Brichacek, please wait a minute, we do want to allow people to give their opinion and at one time, so Mr. Plecnik, continue please. **Councilman Plecnik:** And I personally don't think that it is appropriate for you to be defensive at this Dais about your budget; it's not your position to state a political opinion, it is your position to report the budget to us and if a Member of Council feels that it is inappropriate to deficit spend I don't think that we should construe it as being intentionally misleading. If you would like to state political opinions, I recommend that you run for Council in your respective City but I think that it is inappropriate to deficit spend, I agree with my colleagues who say the same and I don't intend to vote for a budget that has deficit spending in it.

President Somich: Mr. Brichacek.

Finance Director Brichacek: I stated nothing but facts as presented in the budget. My report was in response to a report that is circulating in the community that is worded in such a way as to lead...it is misleading people to inaccurate conclusions regarding the City's financial position.

Law Director Lobe: One thing that I want everybody to understand, just because you have a deficit doesn't mean that in the year you are going to spend more. There are many times, I think in the last three, or four budgets we have projected deficit budgets and that is what a budget is, it is a worst case scenario where you plan for the worst and hope for the best and if the government works well, you are covered on the worst case scenario and you come out of it. Last year, we did that because there was an anticipate \$100,000 deficit and we made money, okay, so just because you budget it for it doesn't mean that it is going to happen. And last year was not just a false year okay as described by some. We have had, I think in the last five years, three or four deficit budgets but we didn't spend it all; that was worst case scenario and in fact we made money. So I want to have everybody understand it is a budget that is what it is, it is a worst case of plan that if everything goes, worst case, high expenses, low revenues and it is conservatively put which is what you want in a City, in a Finance Director to do. That's how it works. So that is how it works and we have the money in the excess if it is a worst case scenario. So let's not get everybody excited about a deficit budget. Mr. Brichacek has done this before and he has done this successfully and he has reported it to us and we have had, I think out of the four, correct me if I am wrong, in the last five years I think it was four deficit budgets that we actually did not in that year expend and have a deficit, just like last year. So I just want everybody to understand the bigger picture on this whole program here. Okay, I hope that explains some of the City's finances on a simplest of level.

President Somich: We will have another meeting to discuss the budget; we have already had one and all Members of Council were able to fully express their opinions and to ask all the questions; we thoroughly discussed the projects like the Pleasant Valley and the bridge and the rock salt and the striping and also we didn't mention, but the budgets for our Police Department, Fire Department were also set back at the levels if not higher than last year even though those were not fully spent last year we reinstated those. So all of these discussions have been held and they will continue to be held and it will be done in public meetings, open meetings as we always do so we will continue to discuss this and allow people to give their opinions but again there is no, there is nothing here that is being done that is not transparent, that's not totally open and being totally discussed. And if we choose not to repair the roads and not to buy the rock salt and not to have all of the Firefighters and Safety Forces here we can so choose that, if we would I believe that would also be irresponsible. But that is our option, that we can have in that discussion we'll continue and the vote will be made here in the next couple of weeks. Any other comments, okay moving on then to our City Engineer's Report.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT – Pietro A. DiFranco, P.E.

We currently have three projects being advertized for bids. They are the Pleasant Valley Road Resurfacing, the Eddy Road Resurfacing and the 2015 Pavement Markings. Bids are due on March 26th. We also received bids for the Lamplight Lane Culvert Replacement and the Knecht/O'Brien Channel Restoration Project. We reviewed the bids and provided recommendations to Mayor and Council to award the Lamplight Lane Project to Longo Construction and the Knecht/O'Brien Project to Woodford Excavating.

City Engineer's detailed in online.

President Somich: I would like to thank you for getting all of that information out quickly and by doing so at an earlier time than we have ever done so before, we got extremely favorable bids back and so the City has saved an significant amount of money and to be noted also on a couple of those projects are being funded through the County, so that is even better news. And again, good work done by our City Engineer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following Reports have been listed alphabetically by Committee.

SERVICE – Christopher Hallum, Chair

Committee Members:

Christopher L. Biro, John Plecnik

COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2015

Members Present: Councilman Christopher Hallum, Councilman Christopher L. Biro, Councilman John Plecnik

Also Present: Councilwoman Nancy E. Fellows, Councilwoman Jennifer Sommers Greer, Finance Director Frank Brichacek, Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss, Mayor Robert M. Weger, Mayor's Assistant Gloria Majeski

Purpose of the Meeting was to discuss City Finances and any other business.

Meeting convened at 6:00pm

Order of Business

Bid Specifications for the new Trash Contract

Chairman Hallum thanked Gloria for putting together spreadsheet providing an "at a glance" view of the bid proposals received.

Mayor Weger stated that his recommendation is to select Republic as our trash provider. He based his recommendation on the pricing for trash cart customers being the lowest with Republic over the other 2 Bidders (Kimble & Waste Management). Over the past 5 years, the fuel surcharge has been absorbed by a grant for the first 4 years of the contract, and by the City in year 5. The grant is no longer available and will now be passed along to our residents. The new pricing from Republic equates to a \$12 quarterly savings compared to current rates even WITH the fuel surcharge. The dumpsters used by the municipality did go up, but still in line with the other bidders pricing.

Chairman Hallum asked if we could split the Municipal service and the residential service since one servicer was cheaper on the municipal servicing. **Mayor Weger** stated that the services may NOT be split between services. We must select one trash provider for everything.

Councilwoman Greer thanked Gloria for her work putting together the documentation for the meeting.

Mayor Weger stated that the plan would be to put the emergency clause on the ordinance, and his hope would be that council would waive the 3 reading rule, and pass the ordinance at the March 12 meeting. This would enable Republic to charge residents the new billing rate on the bill being generated in March, thus saving residents with carts \$12 for that bill.

Road Projects

The road conditions were discussed and the ratings of our roads reviewed from the review done by previous Road Superintendent Catania in 2014. **Road Superintendent Grubiss** stated that in order to come up with a 5 year plan, we have to figure out how to come up with the money to make the much needed repairs. All of the road budget for 2015 is already budgeted for major projects. The City no longer has the equipment nor the personnel necessary to pave, and would therefore require hiring a contractor.

It was suggested that the City could borrow the money similar to how we did for Hanna and Gatsby.

Road Superintendent Grubiss stated that simply milling the road and paving over it will only last a couple years and we'll be back where we are now. We need to properly repair and then repave. He also stated that Worrell Road is in really bad shape, but part of it is in Kirtland. Some cul-de-sacs' need to be replaced which cost approximately \$130,000.

Councilwoman Fellows asked how much we have for roads in 2015. **Finance Director Brichacek** stated that the roads budget is \$400-500K.

Councilwoman Greer asked whether replacing the equipment so that we could do it ourselves would be more cost effective. **Mayor Weger** and **Road Superintendent Grubiss** stated that the equipment and the additional personnel needed to pave would be more cost prohibitive than hiring a contractor as well as the issue of all other service issues are on hold while the entire crew is doing paving.

The loss of the estate tax, and the money that state funding for local government has decreased by 50% of the last few years.

The recommendation of the Committee is that we prioritize the top 4-5 roads after winter is over and the frost has melted away, and identify all of the alternatives in order to determine the best plan of action.

Public Portion

Opened at 6:37pm

Frank Cihula asked about the bumps on Chardon Rd to the east. Also, about notes or bonds coming due.

Cheryl Ota asked if the new trash contract still includes bag service. She was informed that it does.

Linda Fulton asked about whether there might be a problem with the older plow truck because he went around her street 2 times but there still was loose snow on the road. Road Superintendent Grubiss stated that there is nothing wrong with the plow, it's the ice and snow buildup on the sides that prevents the snow from being completely pushed clear of the road. She also voiced concern about the salaries for the road workers coming out of the Road Levy budget, and taking bonds out to pay for road work.

Closed at 6:41pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm

COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2015

Members Present: Councilman Christopher Hallum, Councilman Christopher L. Biro, Councilman John Plecnik

Also Present: Councilman David M. Fiebig, Councilwoman Jennifer Sommers Greer, President Raymond C. Somich, Finance Director Frank Brichacek, Street Superintendent Mark Grubiss, Law Director Thomas G. Lobe, Mayor Robert M. Weger

Purpose of the Meeting was to discuss **Pending Legislation** and any other business.

Meeting convened at 6:00pm

Order of Business

Bid Specifications for the new Trash Contract

Chairman Hallum opened up to comments now that everyone had time to review the contract and data provided by Gloria Majeski.

Councilman Plecnik noted that Republic was the only servicer providing a discount to seniors. The discount is \$1.00/mo. So our seniors will save an additional \$15/quarter if using trash carts. **Councilman Plecnik** also asked the percentages of households with carts vs. bags or opting out. **Mayor Weger** stated that 2/3 of homes have carts, and the remainder either use bags or opt-out.

If residents do use a bag a week, with the new pricing they are better off getting a cart.

Councilman Fiebig asked about 9.1 there is an open quote in the second paragraph, but the end quote is missing. **Law Director Thomas Lobe** will look into this issue. Drive-in services were eliminated in the new contract, but the City wasn't using that anyway. **Councilman Fiebig** confirmed that the City would no longer be paying the fuel surcharge. **Councilman Fiebig** also noted that the dumpsters will cost an additional \$7,000 annually in the new contract, and asked where that number was in the budget, because he couldn't find it. This contract came in after the budget was developed so it would not have been reflected there. Also voiced concern over the requirement that mattresses and furniture must be bagged to prevent spread of bed bugs and that bagging these items can be cumbersome. This was not a negotiable item from any of the service providers. **Chairman Hallum** stated that while it may be cumbersome, it's the right thing to do in the interest of not potentially impacting the trash service personnel.

Mayor Weger reminded everyone that if we pass this ordinance at the coming meeting, the pricing will go into effect in the March billing cycle providing immediate savings to the City and its residents.

The consensus of the Committee was that Council should waive the 3 Reading Rule, and pass this ordinance at the next meeting. There was a concern as to whether we would have 5 members attending the next meeting. Council

Members Hallum, Plecnik, Greer, Biro, and Somich stated they will all be present at the next meeting.

Asphalt plants will not be opening until mid-April, so there will be no chance of beginning road repairs until after that. **Road Superintendent Grubiss** stated that he would not recommend doing it any earlier than that anyway due to the need for the frost level to thaw and roads to significantly warm up before making any repairs.

Opened at 6:20pm with no one coming forth, Public Portion was closed at 6:20pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm

President Somich: I would like to make one clarification our seniors are receiving an extra \$3.00 per quarter, you had said that they would get an additional \$15.00 savings per quarter and it is a total of \$15.00 per quarter.

Councilman Hallum: Yes, thank you, a \$1.00 per month, so \$3.00 extra. **President Somich:** So \$12.00 generally and \$15.00 for our seniors.

OTHER COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Councilman Plecnik reported that following the last meeting of the Recreation Commission the Parks Sub-Committee which our Council Clerk noted as meeting again on March 18th held its first meeting and it was comprised of Boys League Representatives, Coaches, as well as Members of the Recreation Commission. The general consensus of the Parks Sub-Committee is that the most important first issue to deal with is our parks drainage so that the fields can dry out faster but kind of the wish list goes on to include a pathway through as well as fences and possibly a play-ground. Hopefully on March 18th we will have a better sense of where we are going because Terry Baller who is actually working on the plans for the park is planning on walking, possibly this Sunday through the fields to get a sense of how expensive it would be to deal with the drainage issues and what other accoutrements might be possible for the parks. So he thinks that it is going to be a very productive meeting on the 18th and he certainly will be reporting on it for Council. He would encourage the Members to join the meeting if they have an interest in the parks.

PUBLIC PORTION

Section 107.08 – Public Meetings of Municipal Bodies of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby Hills:

(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.

Public Portion was opened at 7:38pm

1. Linda Fulton

2990 Marcum Boulevard

Re: She thought in general, an Executive Session was most generally used for personnel issues, asked if she was right, did she hear this right that Council is going into Executive Session for possibly buying some real estate? She doesn't know why that would be an Executive Session. She had heard about covering mattresses and furniture with plastic so she called Republic and Republic had told her that it was not a requirement on their side so she would like to know why the City would want to make more cumbersome for a resident especially people who live by themselves, seniors where do we get the plastic, how is one suppose to do it, and she would like to know who authored the contract did Republic author the contract or did the City author the contract and if this is not a requirement for Republic then why are we doing this, she would also like to know if it is available, she would like to read the contract.

2. Joseph Jenkins

Affairs Specialist for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

He leads the Government Affairs Outreach for NEORSD suburban member communities. Attending the Council Meeting to inform City Officials that he can be a resource if needed.

Public Portion was closed at 7:41pm

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for consideration by the Members.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-8 – SECOND READING

1st Reading: February 26, 2015

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE BID OF OSBORNE CONCRETE & STONE FOR THE PURCHASE OF LIMESTONE FOR THE YEAR 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Somich declared that Ordinance No. 2015-8 would remain on Second Reading. President Somich stated that we cannot move on this Ordinance because all of the plants are closed for another month or so and the weather certainly is not cooperating.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-9 – SECOND READING

1st Reading: February 26, 2015

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE BID OF OSBORNE CONCRETE & STONE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ASPHALT FOR THE YEAR 2015 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Somich declared that Ordinance No. 2015-9 would remain on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-10 – SECOND READING

1st Reading: February 26, 2015

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CITY SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST OF 2015; REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Somich declared that Ordinance No. 2015-10 would remain on Second Reading. President Somich stated that we will schedule a Finance Committee Meeting prior to the next Regular Council Meeting (scheduled for March 26th) when we will at that time take vote on the budget for the fiscal year 2015.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-11

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE BID OF BROWNING-FERRIS INDUSTRIES OF OHIO, INC. (BFI) FOR THE CITY-WIDE TRASH AND RECYCLING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN PLECNIK, seconded by Councilman Hallum to suspend the Three Reading Rule for Ordinance No. 2015-11.

Councilman Plecnik stated that as everyone at this Dais knows, he is very loathed to waive the Three Reading Rule it is an important Parliamentary Procedure that gives residents the chance to weigh in but his is one of those instances where we have the opportunity as a Council to save by acting quickly to save our residents considerable amount of money potentially \$12.00 on their first bill for two-thirds of the City so with that he moved to waive the Three Reading Rule.

Roll Call: 5 AYES – unanimous

MOTION PASSES

President Somich declared that the Three Reading Rule for Ordinance No. 2015-11 has been suspended.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN HALLUM, seconded by Councilman Biro to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-11.

Roll Call: 5 AYES – unanimous

MOTION PASSES

President Somich declared that Ordinance No. 2015-11 has been adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN PLECNIK, seconded by Councilman Biro to go into Executive Session following “For the Good of the Order” prior to adjournment for no longer than half-an-hour for purposes of discussing real estate transactions inviting the Law Director, Finance Director, Engineer, Street Superintendent/Service Director all of Council and the Mayor.

Roll Call: 5 AYES – unanimous

MOTION PASSES

President Somich declared Council will adjourn into Executive Session immediately following “For the Good of the Order” prior to adjournment for no longer than 30 minutes inviting all of Council, the Mayor, Finance Director, Service Director, City Engineer and the Law Director.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Councilman Biro:

Thanked everyone who was involved with the Pancake Breakfasts. Great to see the community come together.

Councilman Plecnik:

Wanted to let everyone know what good the Pancake Breakfasts actually do. He gets a lot of questions at the breakfasts where does the money go. The money from the first two breakfasts go the Recreation Commission to help with rehabilitating our parks and our sport fields and the third breakfast coming up this Sunday goes to the Willoughby Hills Lions and the Lions Club in general is there to act as Knights for the blind and to help get glasses and treatment for people and preventative treatment as well. Trying to help people to see and for those who aren't sighted, help them to get through their life with guide dogs and other aids. So the first two breakfasts and the third all have wonderful causes. He is going to be there and he hopes that everyone out there in TV land as well as those in the crowd will be there as well.

Councilman Somich:

Passed the gavel to comment on the Annual United Way of Lake County Celebrity Server Event. He hopes that our residents are very proud of our City. We were one of only a few groups that had two tables there that were participating in that event which draw typically 700 people and raises typically \$40,000 in one day for the United Way. It is their largest one single day fund raising event and the Mayor was there with an entire team, his administrative assistant, Councilwoman Jennifer Greer was there and he was there as well, so our City was very well represented; we had a lot of our residents there and other members of community; our staff was there present and we helped to raise good funds for doing good work in our community. Very well represented. As a matter of fact, on behalf of the City of any of the Cities in Lake County by far, we were the largest representation and a lot of donations were made by the Mayor and by members of our community for United Way of Lake County. So we should be proud and he wanted to thank everybody for their participation.

President Somich stated that we will now go into Executive Session. As we stated earlier, we have no intention of making any decisions in Executive Session so when we come back we should go immediately to adjournment.

With Councilwoman Greer being excused, Members Hallum, Plecnik, Somich, Biro, Law Director, the Mayor, Finance Director, City Engineer and Road Superintendent adjourned into Executive Session at 7:48pm.

With Members Hallum, Plecnik, Somich, Biro present the Meeting reconvened at 8:10pm.

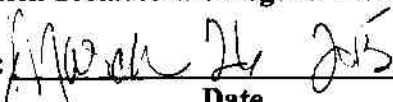
ADJOURNMENT

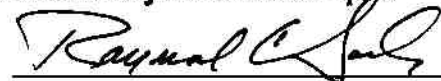
MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN HALLUM, seconded by Councilman Plecnik to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 2015.

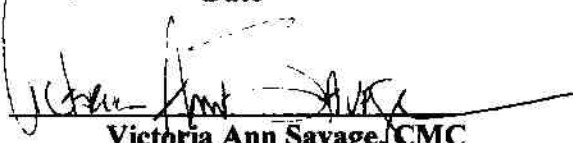
Roll Call: 4 AYES - unanimous

MOTION PASSES

President Somich declared the Regular Council Meeting of March 12, 2015 to be adjourned at 8:11pm.

APPROVED: 
Date


Raymond C. Somich
President of Council

ATTEST: 
Victoria Ann Savage, CMC
Clerk of Council