

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 27, 2025 AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER, 825 MIDWAY DRIVE, WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Frank Trilla.

2. ROLL CALL

Those physically present at roll call were Mayor Frank Trilla, Village Clerk Gretchen Boerwinkle, Trustees Mark Astrella, Sue Berglund, Umberto Davi, Michael Mistele, Gayle Neal, Gregory Ruffolo, Village Attorney Michael Durkin, Village Administrator Sean Halloran, Chief Financial Officer Lora Flori, Director of Community Development Michael Krol, Director of Parks and Recreation Dustin Kleefisch, Director of Public Works Rick Valent, Chief Lauren Kaspar, Deputy Chief Benjamin Kadolph, Deputy Chief Gerard Wodka, and Deputy Clerk Christine Mardegan.

ABSENT: None.

PRESENT REMOTELY: Assistant Village Administrator Alex Arteaga

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Trilla asked Deputy Clerk Mardegan to lead everyone in saying the pledge of allegiance.

4. VISITORS' BUSINESS

None present.

5. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

- a. WAIVE READING OF THE MINUTES (APPROVE)
- b. MINUTES - BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, April 28, 2025 (APPROVE)

Mayor Trilla asked the Board if there were any items to be removed from the Omnibus Vote Agenda.

MOTION: Made by Trustee Davi and seconded by Trustee Berglund to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Trustees Astrella, Berglund, Davi, Mistele, Neal, and Ruffolo. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. DISCUSSION OF A NEW ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC OR GAS BICYCLES OR SCOOTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK

Chief Kaspar began the discussion regarding the regulation of low-speed electric scooters and/or gas bicycles in the Village. The subject of an ordinance has been brought up due to the increased prevalence of these vehicles. She began with a discussion of the state statutes indicating that there were different restrictions for bicycles and scooters.

A Low-speed electric bicycle is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that meets the requirements of one of the following classes:

(a) "Class 1 low-speed electric bicycle" means a low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(b) "Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle" means a low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

(c) "Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle" means a low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

There is no age restriction in the state statute on riders of Class 1 and Class 2 vehicles, but Class 3 is restricted to riders aged 16 years and older. The rules of the road for bicycles in the Illinois code apply to all riders. Bikes may not be ridden on any sidewalks or in areas that would be considered a public downtown area.

The laws for electric scooters went into effect in August 2024. E-scooters are not permitted for use in a municipality unless an ordinance is passed allowing it. In municipalities where e-scooters are allowed they may only be ridden by adults, 18 years or older. Additionally, their speed is limited to 10 miles per hour, they are not allowed on roads with speed limits higher than 35 miles per hour or on public highways, nor can they be ridden under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The new Willowbrook ordinance would reiterate what's in the State statutes, definitions, and all applicable laws and rules. The ordinance will also allow for enforcement, not only for violation of State statutes, but also of the local ordinance. The Village ordinance would also restrict e-bikes, gas bikes and e-scooters on streets, alleys, sidewalks, and essentially any other public property within the Village.

The changes from State statute in the Village ordinance includes adding a restriction of a minimum age of 16 years old for all classifications of e-bikes, no just class 3. With e-scooters, the ordinance cannot change the minimum age below 18 years old so, although many younger than 18 are currently using these vehicles, this is not allowed.

The maximum speeds will remain the same as well as the road restrictions as well. On bike paths, vehicles will only be allowed under manual power. There are exemptions for motorized wheelchairs.

The police department will be publicizing this information to educate the public about the changes coming to Willowbrook and the new ordinance. The information will be posted on the website, social media platforms as well as signage in all the Village's parks.

The Board continued the discussion bringing up numerous issues being currently experienced such as resident complaints, issues between pedestrians and the vehicles on sidewalks, damage to the grassy areas of the parks or the sports courts, and speeding. It was also noted that violations of the ordinance can also be cited on private property as well as public thoroughfares. It was suggested to make the signs planned for the parks be provided to the homeowners' associations as well. An additional question was raised regarding the lack of visibility of the e-vehicles. It was noted that the State regulations for lighting e-bikes and e-scooters travelling on a roadway are similar to those of a motorcycle.

Additional discussion was had regarding the age of the current riders and the lack of information regarding State statutes and providing information on the additional Village ordinance. It was stressed that it is not only the children but also their parents or guardians who need the information.

There was concern for e-scooters being ridden on the Village streets as many of them have speed limits below 30 miles per hour. Although the use of e-scooters would be allowed, the change is that it is restricted to adults 18 years and over. Again, educating the public will be of the utmost importance. Again, the plan is to work diligently on public outreach including to grade schools.

b. DISCUSSION OF A NEW ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC CAMPING
WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Chief Kaspar began her presentation with background information on the Supreme Court ruling in June 2024 preserving the right of local municipalities to regulate public camping on public property. The Illinois Municipal League (IML) developed a model ordinance to regulate public camping the complies with the Supreme Court ruling.

The ordinance contains definitions of what public camping is, where it's prohibited and exceptions to that, and when and how a campsite can be removed. It also allows for the disposition or release of the personal property that might be removed from a public camping campsite, and penalties and mitigations in a step-up form which escalates, based on the number of offenses.

Currently, the ordinances in Willowbrook only establish park hours, specific to the parks only, closing at dusk except Borse which stays open until 10 p.m. for ball field activity. The proposed ordinance would be applicable to not only the parks but other public areas as well.

Although not currently a prevalent issue in Willowbrook, it is a situation that the police handle on occasion. Currently when the issue arises, officers will take a humanitarian approach to assisting the individual in finding shelter or additional resources. With the help of the Board, the Village has added several new social work outreach programs to its resources. However, if an individual does not want to utilize the available resources or refuses to leave, this ordinance provides the officers with another method of enforcement.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Made by Trustee Davi and seconded by Trustee Astrella to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at the hour of 5:56 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Trustees Astrella, Berglund, Davi, Mistele, Neal, and Ruffolo. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ, and APPROVED.

_____, 2025.

Frank A. Trilla, Mayor

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Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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Minutes transcribed by Administrative Assistant Jody Wegrzynski.