

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2020

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President Potter called the February 18, 2020 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

President Potter reviewed the agenda and confirmed who would handle the various required motions this evening.

Chairperson Rodriguez said after speaking with some of my fellow members, there is a consensus that some folks would like a little more time. Zach has brought forward some legislation where it is going to give a minor solution as far as something different. I will pass those out. Basically this is allowing one vehicle to be parked in the back yard on an improved surface. This is something that Zach has brought forward, so if everyone, which I believe everyone is in consensus we are going to go ahead and table this this evening. But, what I would like to hear next week, if we could have some specific concerns so we know exactly what we can address and if anyone has any solutions as far as what can we do to improve the legislation to come to a consensus. I think everyone agrees we need something like this. I think most everyone agrees we need something like this, but there have been some concerns about how it is potentially formatted or what. I don't know. Next week lets come up with specific concerns to address and how we can come to a consensus.

Chairperson Morrison asked are we talking about tabling Ordinances 002 and 003?

Chairperson Rodriguez said that was my next question. Are these part and partial or do you want to go with 002 and 003?

The consensus was to table Ordinance 002-2020 and Ordinance 003-2020 until March 03, 2020.

Chairperson Rodriguez said he was not sure because it looked like 003 could potentially go. It is not talking about parking or anything like that. I was okay with moving forward with 003 but if everyone want to.

Chairperson Bailey said he would like to share some ideas, thoughts and discussions for next week.

Chairperson Rodriguez said okay, perfect.

President Potter asked Chris if he was going to make the motion to table both of those for two weeks.

Chairperson Rodriguez said yes. The motion will be to table them for two weeks at this point. Wes if you can second on 002 and Larry on 003. The most important thing is a couple of weeks ago I said we talk about things ad nauseam sometimes and we never come to some kind of consensus or resolution. Let's see what we can do to come to some kind of a resolution here so that everyone at this table can move forward.

Chairperson Kantor said is on the same page.

Chairperson Rodriguez said or the majority of the people at this table are on the same page. I know you have some concerns and I don't know if we are going to get past those and that is fine.

Chairperson Kantor said that is why we are going to talk more on it.

Chairperson Rodriguez said that is fine. But, again I don't think almost everyone at this table disagrees that we need something. Let's just come to some type of resolution so we can move forward. Fair enough.

Chairperson Elmore said and if this doesn't work, come with something.

All members agreed if you had something then bring it to next week's meeting and that this was a start.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President

## WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**MINUTES** – February 18, 2020

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President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

At President Potter's request, everyone rose for a moment of silence. Those assembled then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call by the clerk, the following members of council were present:

Wes Kantor  
Jo Anna Heck  
Larry Morrison  
Bob Bailey  
Chris Rodriguez  
Lori Elmore  
Karen Conison

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the Minutes of the February 04, 2020, agenda and regular meeting. Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and the minutes were approved as submitted.

### POLL PUBLIC:

Gerald Dixon, 3877 Doney Street, Whitehall, OH 43213 said good evening. I want to speak one last time against Ordinance 002 and 003. There have been a couple here that seem to (?) want to pass this legislation for what I think are simplistic and shallow arguments. Here is precisely why it should be defeated. If passed, as is, it will force both careless junk collecting irresponsible citizens and caring responsible vehicle owners to both obey the laws and directives. This at a loss and or cost which both types of citizens would have to endure. Why? Because the equal protection clause in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. That which guarantees citizens equal protection under the law, as Councilor Conison eluded to at one of the meetings. That which only Councilor Kantor acknowledged. So, if Code Enforcement is enforcing only on those who think they are a problem and not those who aren't then that is a violation of the citizen's equal protection under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. You cannot enforce laws with one person and not another. As such, if enforced equally it will cause a financial burden on both irresponsible and responsible citizens alike. Plain and simple. So, pass legislation and you not only find a way to get at citizens inoperable or junk vehicles but you also create punitive financial measures against otherwise decent, responsible citizens and homeowners. Passing this legislation and doing anything otherwise is setting the City up for a lawsuit. Denying citizens their rights under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. So, if you pass this legislation as is tonight, I ask those in this room, live on Facebook and all across Whitehall to keep an eagle eye out on this legislations enforcement and the City's use of it to ensure that it is being uniformly enforced and if not, I would say that citizens should justly seek counsel to consider options. If you are not willing to do what is right, then why should the citizens lie down and take that abuse. Thank you.

Nick Netotian, 4242 Etna Street, Whitehall, OH 43213 said good evening everybody. I come to you today to ask to reconsider or amend Ordinance 002-2020. I want to start off by saying I completely understand what you are trying to accomplish with this ordinance. But it is people like me that will have to pay the price. I want to share my situation and tell you how it will affect my own family and other families

with similar situations. We have a trailer that is currently stored in the backyard. It is only back there during the fall and winter months and is parked on the grass. We also have a spot that we could put it on which consists of brick pavers. While it looks nice and it is well kept but my understanding is this will not be acceptable under the proposed ordinance. So, we would have to get concrete or asphalt slabs installed which would not only burden us financially but it will also require us to find a contractor. Finding a good contractor for a smaller job could be rather difficult and time consuming. I believe according to code; concrete will have to be five feet from the property line limiting where we could put a concrete slab. This ordinance will cost my family thousands of dollars. Our backyard is kept up and looking nice. We are hardworking people and we follow the rules. We could now be punished because of a few people in our City who have gone to the extreme of parking cars, boats, trailers and campers. If the proposed ordinance is passed you will be punishing many others for the actions of a few which I find unacceptable. Again, I ask you to please reconsider or amend Ordinance 002-2020. Thank you for your time.

James Black, 491 Robinwood Avenue, Whitehall, OH 43213 said also on that same ordinance, I have a rather large backyard. I do have a camper that I park in my driveway. However, if I want to be able to park it in my backyard I do not have the financial resources to go and get a large pad to do that. There's no reason that anybody should be put under a financial strain for the few people that seem to be an issue. I just don't have the money to afford that and I don't think it should be forced on anybody.

Kelly Young, 4200 Etna Street, Whitehall, OH 43213 said same ordinance also. I currently have road pavers that my wife put in the ground over twenty years ago in our backyard. It was a muddy mess when we bought the place in 1996. We first put limestone down and we took that up because limestone sucks. It didn't do any good and it created a mess. We went out and purchased a bunch of old road pavers that used to be in Lancaster, brought them up here, she dug all by herself and put them down. If you look at my house you will see our sidewalk goes from the sidewalk up to our house are brick. She did all that and the landscaping and stuff. For us to not be able to park a vehicle, on occasion, instead of having it in the driveway would be a hardship because a lot of times she wants to park back there, as to not inconvenience people clearing snow from the roads. That way we can have one back there and one in the driveway and it is not hurt anybody because we have room for it. There are a lot of driveways out there that have gravel or grass growing up all over the city. There are a lot of people who take care of their yards and some of them have vehicles in the back that is for their son or daughter growing up. They are keeping that vehicle or they can't afford to put tags on it, but now you are saying they are going to have to tag it and put insurance on it when they can't afford it, there is another hardship. Or like myself, I am going to have to dig up all those pavers and put concrete or pavement down which is another hardship. Some people put stuff back there to keep for their kids. They don't put it on the street, they can't afford to tag it and stuff they are just saving it. This is going to inconvenience everybody. The City is not going to pay for it, I assume. I don't think that is in the provision here, so once again the taxpayers are going to take the big burden. I don't know if you guys understand but a lot of people in this community don't make the money to be able to afford to put that burden on themselves. They live paycheck to paycheck, a lot of families do. I ask that you reconsider this measure and basically get rid of it for the betterment of the community. Thank you.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Bailey reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Elmore reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They have no pending legislation and they will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson Rodriguez reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – Chairperson Morrison reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services – Chairperson Heck reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Chairperson Conison reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Kantor reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

### OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Kim Maggard – she welcomed everyone this evening and appreciated all the comments. She informed Council that the Administration has a tentative contract agreement with full-time dispatchers and the part-time dispatchers. She will be bringing a tentative contract to them by next week's Council Committee meeting and she will have legislation for them as well. She also wanted to let everyone know that on March 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. the Whitehall Area Lions will be having their annual auction at the Woodlands and everyone is welcome to attend. It raises money in order to help people with seeing issues, glasses and they give to a variety of organizations such as leukemia and cystic fibrosis. They help many people. Come out and support the Lions.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – he thanked everyone for coming out tonight. I would like to update Council as well as the public. I received several call just from the public as it relates to the Roses parking lot. I would like to thank Code enforcement and Director Woodruff for their diligence in actually citing Roses and letting them know they are in violation. I am sure many of you know, both Council members as well as the public at large, you have to drive through that parking lot not only to go to Roses but to go to McDonalds, to go to Chase bank, to go to Kroger's as well as the laundromat. So that you understand kind of my thinking on it, I could go the harshest route and go the route of nuisance abatement actions against Roses as it relates to that, but I need the public to understand why I have not done that. I have not done that for this reason, in the conversations I have had, not only with the public as well as some members of Council, to do that would mean that I would get an injunction against Roses to shut down the parking lot. Shutting down that parking lot actually means you would no longer have access to Chase Bank. You would have to find another route into McDonalds, you would no longer be able to go through to Kroger's and if you shop at Roses you would not be able to shop at Roses until they abated that nuisance. So here is what they have done. They have hired a property manager, Avison Young. The reason why I say that name publically is because if you get any damages to your vehicle as it relates to driving over that parking lot, call my office, I will get you in contact with their property manager and then you can deal with them directly as it relates to those damages. They have given me a tentative schedule to repair that lot. They said they cannot get it done during the winter months in Columbus but they intend to start work sometime in March. I will get more information on that and I will share that with the public but I just wanted Council, as you are talking to members of the public and for you who are here to know kind of what is going on with that. As you are driving through that parking lot, I know it is like avoiding land mines, but to the extent that you can avoid those land mines they do intend on repairing that lot and I will give them that time frame or the next best step would be going through the courts. I don't want to do that to the public because that is kind of in a catch twenty-two. I just wanted everyone to know that.

City Auditor Dan Miller – he had no official report. He said the Auditor's Financial Reports can be found on the City of Whitehall's webpage under the Auditor's page. Anytime anyone wants to take a look at what we do financially, get on the website and browse around.

Director of Public Service and Development Zach Woodruff – had no official report.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present

Treasurer Steve Quincel – he had no official report.

President Potter – advised that the following Officials’ Reports have been filed in the Council Office since the last meeting: The Mayor’s Report to Council for January 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

There were no items listed on the agenda this evening.

VERIFICATION OF COPIES:

President Potter requested a roll call on whether each member of council received a copy of each item of legislation listed on the agenda prior to the meeting, including any add-on legislation. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative.

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 002-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 903.32 PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON LAWNS PROHIBITED TO INCLUDE REAR YARDS.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced and moved to table Ordinance No. 002-2020 until the March 03, 2020 meeting and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 002-2020 was tabled.

ORDINANCE NO. 003-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 1126.13, LIMITATION OF PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS TO ADD A LOT MAXIMUM FOR IMPERVIOUS PARKING AREA.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced and moved to table Ordinance No. 003-2020 until the March 03, 2020 meeting and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 003-2020 was tabled.

ORDINANCE NO. 004-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 1123.10 (C) TITLED GENERAL COMMERCE DISTRICT SPECIAL PERMIT USES IN THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL TO ADD BREWERY AND DISTILLERY FACILITIES.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced and moved to adopt Ordinance No. 004-2020 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 004-2020 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 005-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING 1125.17 (d) STORAGE OF GARBAGE AT NONRESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced and moved to adopt Ordinance No. 005-2020 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 005-2020 was adopted.

SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 006-2020 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

***Public Hearing on 03/03/2020***

AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATTACHED TO CHAPTER 1122 OF THE 1970 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, ALLOWING A SPECIAL PERMIT UNDER 1123.10(c)(37) TO ALLOW BUZZSAW BREWING COMPANY TO OPERATE A BREWERY FACILITY ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 951 A & B ROBINWOOD AVENUE, PARCEL 090-000311-00, PROPERTY OWNED BY CHARTER PROPERTIES.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2020 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$80,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (241) TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST SETASIDE ACCOUNT (241-000-51000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 008-2020 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 008-2020 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 008-2020 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 008-2020 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 009-2020 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

ADVANCING SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR AND 40/100 DOLLARS (\$6,184.40) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (241) TO THE BULLETPROOF VESTS GRANT FUND (267); MAKING A FUND TRANSFER OF EIGHT THOUSAND SIXTY-FIVE AND 60/100 DOLLARS (\$8,065.60) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (241) TO THE BULLETPROOF VESTS GRANT FUND (267) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 009-2020 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 009-2020 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 009-2020 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 009-2020 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2020 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

RESOLVING TO APPROVE "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 004-2020 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 004-2020 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Resolution No. 004-2020 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 004-2020 was adopted.

#### POLL PUBLIC:

Gerald Dixon, 3877 Doney Street, Whitehall, OH 43213 said just extemporaneously regarding Mr. Bivens discussion telling us about Roses parking lot. The thing that I would have is really a question and kind of a concern is that parking lot was built at a time for something that is much larger, perhaps it was a Woolco. I am not sure but the thing is every time we hear about the Roses parking lot it is Roses that is having to pay for the repairs to the parking lot but yet a large majority of the abuse of that parking lot comes from people using that as an entrance to get to Kroger's because they don't go down the lines over this way to get to Kroger's, they sail across the parking lot. I am just curious as to how much of that expense Roses has to keep incurring is paid for by others like Kroger's or someone else. Their customers are actually using the lot as a cross over. I mean it just concerns me because I keep hearing poor Roses is responsible for their lot unless they make stanchions or something in a way so people can only go a certain way. It seems wrong to make Roses keep paying for the abuse that others incur.

Jim Graham, 644 Greenwood Rd., Whitehall, OH 43213 said good evening everyone. I am here to talk about Ordinance 002 and 003, which you tabled. I understand that you have some hard choices to make on this ordinance. I trust that you are going to come up with some solutions, some workable solutions that will address the issues that are out there, that you have throughout the City with the parking situation. I stood before you before and I said that almost every ordinance that has to do with code or something in the City always has a positive and a negative impact. So, for some people it is going to be really good and it will have a negative impact on some. Here is what I want to say about that. When I was in school and you probably all heard the same thing, we didn't get to go to recess because somebody acted out. Here is the deal. One rotten apple can spoil the whole barrel. That is what it amounts to so keep that in consideration. It is something we need to address. There is going to be good and bad coming out of it for some people. I think overall for the majority of the people in Whitehall, you are going to come up with a good solution that is going to fit the majority of the residents here. Thank you.

#### COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

Mayor Maggard said we have the state of the City on March 11, 2020 and that will be at the Wasserstrom Building at 4500 East Broad Street from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for meeting your neighbors, talking to City Officials and there will be food available. The State of the City Address will begin at 6:30 p.m. If you really want to know what is going on in Whitehall and some of the good projects that we have coming up and some great announcements, I would advise you to attend. It is going to be a lot of fun. Thank you.

Chairperson Conison said April 4, 2020 will be the Easter Egg Hunt. This year W.C.C.A. is holding it in the Whitehall Yearling stadium. The egg stuffing event will be announced soon as we do not have a date for that yet. We coordinate with the schools on that one so as soon as I have a date for that I will let everyone know.

Chairperson Heck said Whitehall Yearling High School will present African Night 2020 A Night of African Cultures and Black History Month on February 28, 2020 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the W.Y.H.S. auditorium.

Chairperson Kantor said we have the Lady Rams this Friday night. It will be the second round tournament and they play Licking Valley at Whitehall. Monday night the boys play either at Upper Arlington or Canal Winchester. It will probably be Canal Winchester.

#### POLL COUNCIL:

Mr. Kantor thanked everyone for coming and everyone who is watching on Facebook. You know as we sit up here we have a lot of decisions to make. Sometimes they are tough as we had a resident say. He has been up here and he knows. He has sat in our seats but I will say this, I have been steadfast since 2016 when this was first introduced. I didn't like it. My position hasn't changed and there are certain reasons. We have certain properties, a very small percentage of properties that we have a major problem on. It is just not in the Woods or Yearling Road. It is all around the City. With that being said, it is the other ninety-eight percent of our City we don't have a problem with. We don't have a problem with those but yet they could be in trouble for having a vehicle, a trailer somewhere in the back on the grass. I don't think that is right. Some people, as we have sat at this table said well it is the appearance of the City, that when people come through our City they see everything. See, that is not always true because some of the issues we are dealing with is our properties and things we can't see. So if you have fifteen or sixteen or eight or twelve vehicles, whatever you have in the back, I can't see them. But if I drive down certain streets in the City I see problems that need to be taken care of that have not. I do believe in Code Enforcement and I feel we have the best Code Enforcement Officers in Franklin County in Mr. Sural and Mr. Brown. I realize they can't get to everything but there are somethings I have been seeing for an extended period of time that hasn't got corrected. I feel we should correct that. We had a gentleman in here, I think it was Mr. Young who said it is a cost to our residents and a lot of our residents do live payday to payday. That is a lot of money to put a concrete slab in their back yard especially since you might have a boat, a trailer and a car. But again with that being said, I do know that we have a problem in the City and there are a few issues with certain properties that do need to be taken care of. I have said it before and I said it in the backroom again tonight, I don't have a solution. I truly don't. I dint have in 2016 and I don't in 2020. We are going to try to work through this and work it out. The people who have called me know I have called you back and I thank you for calling. There are a couple of people sitting in here now who left messages and I called them back. I want to thank you so much.

Ms. Heck thanked everyone who came in tonight and spoke. I know it is not always easy. Thank you to those that reached out to me. Since this was tabled for two more weeks please continue reaching out. I would like to continue to hear everybody's opinion. I hope everyone has a wonderful night.

Mr. Morrison thanked everyone watching and those that came in and gave their opinions. We truly do listen. Everyone has an opinion and we are up here to decide which one fits this community the best for all the citizens. He hopes everyone has a good week and thank you very much.

Mr. Bailey thanked everyone for coming and those that engaged, we appreciate that and Larry thank you for your comments.

Mr. Rodriguez said there were some good comments this evening. He handed out some retro birthday wishes to Mr. Bailey and Mr. Miller. He said Ms. Elmore's comments a couple of weeks ago were really beautiful and just amazing and he wanted to extend his condolences to her and her family for their loss.

Ms. Elmore thanked everyone who came out to speak today. Your comments don't go unnoticed and they will be entertained. Everybody is not going to be satisfied with the outcome but my hope is that everybody will be able to come together and we can make Whitehall the City that all residents of this community want to have. It is just a difficult decision and there is a lot of controversy concerning both these pieces of legislation. I am confident that we have people up here that understand, that understand

what you are going through, that we have to manage ourselves. We have to go through the same things. It affects everybody and not just the people who have spoken, even people out there who are afraid to come here and speak. I will say one other thing. The State of the City is a very important event to come to because it does give you highlights of what is happening to the City. I think you do yourself a disservice when you don't attend and you don't stay abreast of what is happening in the City and the next thing you know things are moving and things are being built and people are wondering what is going on. Those are the times when we need to come together and find out from our City what is actually happening and how can I do to be a part of improving, not just talking about shedding bad light on things because I think what happens in the City of Whitehall is good. It doesn't feel good at the time but I am sure it is going to get better and I know we can look back on some things that did not feel good at the time but Whitehall is better for it now. One of the other things is I want to talk again about Black History because this is the month. There are many accomplishments that have been contributed to the history of America. It didn't just stop with those we can look in a textbook and see their contributions. Four hundred years later we are still making history. History is not something that stops. It continues as long as you live too. You will continue to make history as long as all of us live. What we have done today is history. Tomorrow, that is a part of your history. So all of the decisions we make affect the City today, tomorrow, no matter when it is. It is going to be history and it is something we ought to look back on and be happy about. There are going to be naysayers, there are going to be people who are constantly negative about everything that happens in Whitehall. However, the good and the majority of the people out weigh all the others. What we need to do is continue to work together. We need to work together. We need to stay off of social media and if there are issues that we have with this City, this is the forum for it. Afterwards it is a forum to talk to your City Council people. I am encouraging everybody to do that. We don't bite. We don't. I say look, for those people who came forward it takes a lot of courage to do that. It takes a lot of courage for people their first time coming in here and to get up and stand up and to not know what to say but to say it anyway. I am thankful for you because it gives us another thought process and other things to entertain as we go through and we look at all these pieces of legislation. Thank everybody for coming and thank you for listening I will say one last thing. Do not wait to tell people you care about them. I don't care if it is your family, your friends, your neighbors, let people know how much you care about them because it makes a difference. Thank you.

Ms. Conison said she was so sorry for Ms. Elmore's loss and she knows that it has been a difficult night for her. I think a lot of you know I have been on the fence with this and I have spoken to many. This is the first time in the eight years I have been on Council that I have received an overwhelming number of emails and phone calls. I have done my best to get back to everyone. I do lead a crazy life as far as working kind of far. I am going to speak a little bit from the heart because I have lived in Whitehall my entire life. I moved out briefly and then I came right back because this is home. This is home to many. It is a very diverse community. When I am talking with people and I hear people in favor and against. A lot of times I hear, I ask them where they live, not that it matters a lot because we all live in Whitehall. But it does a little too because a lot of time what I hear is, and there are different areas in Whitehall and let's face it since I was young people would say oh Fairway Boulevard. That is the nicer area of Whitehall. Oh you live on the south side of Whitehall, that is the bad side of Whitehall. For years we have always heard that and to not acknowledge that is just wrong. Many phone calls. I will tell you a little bit personal story about myself and my family is we are not well to do by any means. We are Whitehall. We volunteer, we do a lot of social service, we are diverse, we care. It took us twenty-five years to go on a vacation to get enough money together. It took us years to get enough money together to put in a new driveway in our home. We care about our home. There are many times or things we have to go ahead and say we just can't do right now. So I understand when I hear community members say to me, you know what, this is going to be a heartache if I feel for those people have to get rid of something or if I can't do a project I was trying to do. This is going to be a real heartache for me and I feel for those people. I also listen to the people that say I don't want to look over at a junkyard. I don't either. I don't want to look over a junkyard. But I want to work on this. I want to continue working on this until we can come up with something that works best for the community, that works best for our citizens so they don't have to sacrifice something that they have been wanting to do

for years and years. Whether it is twenty-five years, whether it is two years it doesn't matter. I thank you all for listening and coming and we will continue working on this.

President Potter said he too would like to echo what his colleagues have said. Thank you to those that came out to join us in person this evening and stepping forward. This process is very charged on both sides as it is very important. I think you are seeing the depth and concern that this body has in the fact that we have had some very deep conversations on them and did not feel in a position we were ready to go this evening and yet we are going to have some more conversations on it. This is not being decided lightly. Trying to do as much due diligence and being responsible as we can to do the best for the majority of the citizens of the City of Whitehall.

Having nothing further, Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President