

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter called the January 3, 2023 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Councilperson Bailey and Councilperson Elmore.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2023.

Robert Bailey, Council President Pro-Tem

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – January 3, 2023

President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

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:

Karen Conison
Wes Kantor
Jo Anna Heck
Amy Smith
Gerald Dixon

Mr. Kantor moved to excuse the absent members and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and Councilperson Bailey and Councilperson Elmore were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the December 20, 2022, agenda and regular meeting minutes. 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

City Attorney Michael Bivens and Whitehall City School Superintendent Sharee Wells gave an update on The Martin Luther King Jr Scholarship Breakfast to be held on Monday, January 16, 2023 at the Whitehall YMCA. Registration is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be two scholarships awarded to two seniors attending Whitehall Yearling High School. Donations can be made to the Whitehall Education Foundation, 625 South Yearling Road and can be made in any amount.

POLL PUBLIC:

Paul Werther, 4483 San Jose Lane, Whitehall, OH said he posted on Facebook about the feral cat population in Whitehall. He feels that something needs to be done about this problem. Councilperson Kantor came and took pictures of the cats that are living in the garage across from Mr. Werther's property. He has had to remove (scoop up) two feral cats from the street in the last six months and he has lived in his house for twenty-three years. He said he looked over the ordinances about owning animals. If you feed an animal, it is considered yours. If these laws are on the books, they need to be enforced.

Joy Bivens, 4985 Doral Avenue, Whitehall, OH asked Mr. Bivens, just for clarification, could he talk a little bit about the scholarships and how are they funded. This funding is not coming from Parks and Recreation as it has never come from them before. She asked him if he was accepting donations from others.

City Attorney Bivens said that Councilperson Elmore and he are funding the scholarships as well as other private anonymous donors who do not want to be named, but will be recognized in some way. If anyone would like to contribute, please send it to make out to and send to the Whitehall Education Foundation, 625 South Yearling Road, Whitehall, OH 43213. Each scholarship awarded will be a minimum of five hundred dollars. Donations can be made in any amount.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Reports given as Committee's did not meet on December 27, 2022.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Kim Maggard – was not present.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff – was not present.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – the City Attorney's office wrapped up 2022 and it was a very busy year. Year-to-date cases handled in the Whitehall City Attorney's office for 2022 were three thousand six hundred ten cases. In the month of December, they handled two hundred thirty nine cases in Mayor's Court. Out of the two hundred thirty nine cases, Whitehall residents committed only twenty-one of them. That is about eight percent. Whitehall residents committed six hundred twenty four cases of a criminal nature for the year. That is about seventeen percent. Taking into consideration the size of the city, the geographic, the numbers, and the fact that Whitehall is a growing City, those numbers are small compared to other municipalities. He would put Whitehall's numbers up against any municipality as far as safety of the residents that live here. Ultimately, with our Police Department and their initiative's as far as making Whitehall safer. Anybody knows and those of you, who represent your constituents, if you live in Whitehall, raise your kids in Whitehall, have neighbors in Whitehall they are not committing crimes that are going to cause you harm at a very low percentage rate.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – the Auditor's office is working diligently to close December 2022 and year-end and at this time, he does not have solid figures for Council at this time. The report that he ran at the end of last week showed that for income tax revenue, they were at about ninety-nine percent of what was budgeted and on the income tax refunds they were at just seventy percent. They fared better than they expected. Once everything is completed, he will come back to Council with some solid numbers.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present.

Treasurer Shaquille Alexander– had no official report.

President Potter – advised there have been no Official's Reports filed in the Council Office since the last meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Agenda for the January 5, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

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. 092-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 52-2011 TO UPDATE THE TAX EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE HAMILTON ROAD COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA.

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to adopt Ordinance No. 092-2022 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 092-2022 was adopted.

SECOND READING:

There was no legislation for second reading.

FIRST READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 001-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO (ADDRESSES AND PARCEL NUMBERS AS PROVIDED WITHIN THE TEXT OF THIS RESOLUTION), CERTIFYING SUCH COSTS TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST SUCH PROPERTY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

Chairperson Conison said that WCCA would be meeting on the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. They hold their meetings at the Whitehall YMCA. She would love to have you come and volunteer your time.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Conison thanked Paul for coming to the meeting whether there is an issue or not. She thanked Sharee Wells for the presentation and for her help with pancakes at the Breakfast with Santa. She thanked those who were viewing on Facebook.

Chairperson Kantor thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended. She thanks Ms. Wells for visiting. He said it was an honor to have her at the meeting. He understands what Mr. Werther is going through. They do have a trap, neuter and release program. The disease aspect is a different thing. He will stay on top of this for him. He thanked Ms. Bivens for coming up and talking. He was glad to see Treasurer Alexander back at the Council meeting.

Chairperson Heck thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended. She thanked City Attorney Bivens for standing in for Director Sorrell as he did a great job. She thanked Ms. Wells for coming and speaking on the event. She is excited to attend. She thanked Ms. Bivens for filling in the missing pieces. She appreciates Mr. Werther for sharing his concerns with them.

Chairperson Smith thanked everyone watching from home and those who in attendance. She thanked Mr. Werther for sharing his concerns with them, City Attorney Bivens and Sharee Wells for their presentation on the MLK Breakfast. She is excited to attend and see what the students present. She looks forward to the New Year.

Chairperson Dixon thanked everyone who tuned in from home and those in attendance. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said it was nice to see Mr. Alexander. He thanked Ms. Wells for coming in. The MLK Scholarship program, he apologized ahead of time, as he has some medical things coming up around the end of January so he is unable to participate in any way. He wanted to say how terrific he thinks the program is and he is glad that it is back on track. He is hoping to participate next year. He thanked Mr. Werther for coming in and expressing how he feels. He thinks it is a terrific thing when citizens come forward and speak their mind. He does not know what to say about the issue as he has six deer in his backyard that eat his plants. This is an issue and he knows that people go around and trap, spay, neuter and release which is terrific. He is leaving it to others with greater knowledge to solve the problem but he is sorry for the problems Mr. Werther is having.

President Potter thanked Sharee Wells for coming out. He is sure she is excited for the MLK Jr Scholarship Breakfast along with Mr. and Ms. Bivens. He thinks it is a wonderful thing. He is actually excited to see what the young people create. He likes the idea that they can express themselves in a wide variety of ways so each one can go on their strengths. That just makes a stronger program. He thanked Mr. Werther for coming in as well. He hopes a resolution can be determined to get that straightened out. He can only imagine how frustrating it is especially for those that are following the law and doing the right thing. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Having nothing further, Mr. Kantor moved to adjourn and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2023.

Robert Bailey, Council President Pro-Tem