

WHITEHALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MINUTES – January 12, 2021

Council President Potter called the January 12, 2021 Council Committees' meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The following members of council and the administration were present:

Members of the Administration

Council President Thomas Potter

Mayor Kim Maggard

Service Director Zach Woodruff

Deputy Director of Public Affairs Megan Meyer

Council Members

Chris Rodriguez

Wes Kantor

Larry Morrison

Bob Bailey

Jo Anna Heck

Karen Conison

Lori Elmore

President Potter asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Roy Adkins. Their thoughts are with Roy's family at this time.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

President Potter said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda for Committee of the Whole.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Councilperson Bailey opened at 6:31 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 001-2021 - DRAFT # 1

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

(Admin/Fin. Mgt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 01/19/2021–Bailey/Morrison)

Having no further business, Councilperson Bailey closed at 6:31 p.m.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Chairperson Rodriguez opened at 6:31 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was no discussion in Community Standards and Enforcement.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Rodriguez closed at 6:32 p.m.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY

Chairperson Elmore opened at 6:32 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was no discussion in Community and Elder Advocacy.

Having no further business, Chairperson Elmore closed at 6:32 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson Morrison opened at 6:32 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was no discussion in Economic Development.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Morrison closed at 6:33 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

Chairperson Heck opened at 6:33 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Director Woodruff said he wanted to make Council aware of a couple of things. The ad for the 2021 street program will appear this Thursday. He anticipates bid opening on January 29. As a reminder to Council and those watching from home, that is to resurface Pierce, Elaine and Erickson from Etna to Main. It is to resurface a couple of sections of Country Club Road and Wright Avenue, as well as reconstructions on Chandler between Yearling and Pineview and Tornes from Rickenbacker to Powell along with resurfacing on Greenwood Road, Court and Place. Just a reminder that anytime the city does maintenance such as resurfacing and above, they are required to comply with federal ADA laws so each one of those projects, if the ramps are either non-existent or not in compliance with today's standards those will be upgraded or installed. The end of February or the beginning of March they will open bids for the Poth Road reconstruction project. That is a four million dollar project funded entirely by OPWC. This will include widening of Poth Road, new lights, a multi-purpose use path on the south side of the road connecting Yearling to Hamilton and doing some work on the east side of Hamilton Road as well. He had the pleasure to inform Council that the City of Whitehall was awarded both projects that they applied for under this round of OPWC grants. To his knowledge this is the first time the City has applied for and been awarded two projects. The Broad and Hamilton project, which is the 1.4 million dollar request, ended up being the highest scored project in the round so they were able to receive one hundred percent grant funding for that project. There is no loan component to that project. On the Woodcliff realignment, which is a portion of the road necessary for the redevelopment of the Woodcliff project. The City received a 2.3 million dollar grant and an eight hundred thousand dollar interest free, twenty-six year loan to enable them to put over three million dollars in funds into that infrastructure. A number of Council have asked about the dumpster screening. Last year City Council passed an update to that ordinance requiring dumpster enclosures. After that, the City contacted roughly eighty-three parcels that were in violation. As of last week, forty six percent have come into compliance with an additional six asking for extensions and the Code Enforcement office will work with the remaining to get them into compliance.

Chairperson Kantor asked if Casto Properties was included in the count, as they did not include the cost in their budget last year but they are doing it this year.

Director Woodruff said that the new Chief Building Official is reviewing those plans as they came in this week.

Director Woodruff welcomed Mr. Lenny Lewis to the City of Whitehall as the new Chief Building Official. They are very happy to have him onboard and to get him acclimated to the job.

Chairperson Elmore congratulated Mr. Woodruff on Whitehall being awarded the grants because we can get some work completed at minimal cost to the City. She thanked him for the update on the Greenwood streets resurfacing. She has had some residents call her and ask about the ADA ramps.

Director Woodruff said the City's goal is to have ADA compliant ramps everywhere throughout the City. The law states that when they update a street, maintenance that is mill and fill, resurfacing and more significant, that is when they are required to install or modify the ADA ramps requires them. There is nothing in the law that requires them to do it outside of the general maintenance. Think of it like this. If your house was built in the 1950's there is nothing in the code that requires you today to upgrade the electric, plumbing, HVAC or energy efficiency to today's standards unless you have started the process of remodel or addition, then you would have to bring those components up to today's standards. It is a goal of both his and the Mayors to ensure that the City is a walkable and accessible community. Council is aware that they have come forward with various projects for multi-use paths so the residents can get around by other means of transportation other than a car.

Chairperson Elmore said she has received a call from someone who has been charged seventy-five dollars by Local Waste for their old trashcan.

Director Woodruff said Megan Myers would be stepping up to the podium to address some Local Waste issues and the rollout.

Deputy Director of Public Affairs Megan Myer gave some highlights about how the cart rollout has gone and how implementation and the beginning of the program is looking. Communication with residents has been ongoing. Residents have now received two mailings directing them to a specific website for the cart rollout. Whitehallcartrollout.com started as way for residents to select their cart size and is now the place where all the information can be found about the new program. She gave kudos to the Service Department team for answering hundreds of calls. As soon as the carts were being delivered, we began accepting changes in cart size. There have only been one hundred fifty five requests with most of those being to a smaller cart size. Residents could begin placing orders for second carts last week. Each additional cart come with a one-time fifty-dollar fee and does increase your bill by two dollars a month. They have implemented a new system called Vision. It is a cloud-based system. It is designed to help with work orders switches and new carts. They have begun hosting bi-weekly calls with both Local Waste Services and Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio to talk through any issues they may be having, what the tonnage reports are now and anything they may see with set outs. She shared data from the first week of collection. She outlined some issues from the first week's collection. She went over some of the rumors that are circulating on social media. She called them myth busters.

Deputy Director of Public Affairs Megan Myer answered questions from Councilmembers.

Chairperson Elmore thanked Megan for always keeping them informed and always updating social media.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Heck closed at 6:57 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairperson Conison opened at 6:57 p.m. and addressed the legislation in her committee, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 003-2021 - DRAFT # 2

AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO 161.40 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED "DUTY HANDGUN" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

(Public Safety- 1st Reading – ADOPT 01/19/2021- Conison/Kantor)

SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 001-2021 (*Public Safety- 3rd Reading – ADOPT 02-02-2021- Conison/Kantor*)
RECLASSIFYING A FUND ADVANCE AS A FUND TRANSFER AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

Chairperson Kantor asked if they were being proactive with the K-9's we are looking down the road to get to replace the K-9's as they get ready to go out of service.

Mayor Maggard replied yes, they absolutely are and that costs come out of the law enforcement trust fund account.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Conison closed at 6:58 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Chairperson Kantor opened at 6:58 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Chairperson Kantor said the Mayor would be doing the swearing in of the new commission members on Wednesday, January 14. He spoke with Director Sorrell in reference to the projects they have lined up for the year and if you watch, you will see Matt from WCP out quite a bit.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Kantor closed at 6:59 p.m.

There was discussion as to whether Chairperson Morrison wanted to proceed with his questions as City Attorney Bivens is now in attendance. It was determined that City Attorney Bivens would attend the committee meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 to answer questions from Councilmembers. City Attorney Bivens asked that Councilmembers email him their question prior to the meeting so he may have time to do research and to be as thorough as possible with answering their question.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council