

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Pro Tem Bailey called the January 17, 2023 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of President Potter.

President Pro Tem Bailey reviewed the agenda and confirmed who would handle the various required motions this evening.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – January 17, 2023

President Pro Tem Bailey called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

At President Pro Tem Bailey’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  
Amy Smith  
Bob Bailey  
Gerald Dixon  
Lori Elmore  
Karen Conison

Mr. Kantor moved to excuse the absent member and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and President Potter was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the January 3, 2023, agenda and regular meeting minutes, the January 9, 2023 agenda and meeting minutes of the Park and Recreation Committee and the January 10, 2023 agenda and special 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:

2022 Employees of the Year

VERIFICATION OF COPIES:

President Pro Tem Bailey 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

RECOGNIZING LARA JONES AS THE 2022 ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HER A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 002-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 002-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Resolution No. 002-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 002-2023 was adopted.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff present the 2022 Employee of the Year award to Lara Jones.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

RECOGNIZING AUSTIN HINES AS THE 2022 LABOR /SERVICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 003-2023 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 003-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Resolution No. 003-2023 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 003-2023 was adopted.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff present the 2022 Employee of the Year award to Austin Hines.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

RECOGNIZING MARK SHOWALTER AS THE 2022 POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 004-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 004-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Resolution No. 004-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 004-2023 was adopted.

Police Chief Mike Crispen present the 2022 Employee of the Year award to Mark Showalter.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

RECOGNIZING SHAWN STAUFFER AS THE 2022 FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 005-2023 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 005-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Resolution No. 005-2023 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 005-2023 was adopted.

Fire Chief Preston Moore present the 2022 Employee of the Year award to Shawn Stauffer.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Marty Saperstein, Saperstein Associates and Megan Meyer, Deputy Director of Public Affairs shared the results of the 2022 Whitehall Community Attitudes Survey. The report was the fourth in a biennial series dating to 2016. Marty Saperstein and Megan Meyer answered questions and concerns from Councilmembers at this time.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Kim Maggard – said she always enjoys having the Employees of the Year come to Council to be recognized. All employees do a good job but for those employees to be singled out makes her happy. There is nothing like someone being appreciated for their hard work and the job that they do and the love of doing good for the city and serving the citizens. Regarding the 2022 City Attitude Survey, she found it interesting that nine potential community initiatives and the seventy-four percent of the responders said it had something to do with housing, whether it was affordable or workforce housing or what can the city do to help people with their housing; senior housing and empty nester housing. She said it was interesting for the future, how they can structure housing initiatives around what citizens said they wanted.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff – he had no official report. He wanted to congratulate all of the Employees of the Year but specifically Lara and Austin who do a fantastic job day in and day out as well as Mark Showalter and the Firefighter of the Year. He asked for favorable consideration of Ordinance 002-2023 and 003-2023.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – just general comments of gratitude and thanks for the Martin Luther King celebration breakfast held on Monday. He said he is a boxing fan. The boxer of his generation was Mike Tyson and one of his quotes was “Everybody has a plan until they get hit”. However, before him, Mohammed Ali said, “Service to others is the rent that you pay for your room in heaven”. Yesterday he was analyzing why he was so emotional as it related to this Martin Luther King breakfast. It was not the submissions of the students, which were phenomenal but it was in the spirit of what Martin Luther King said in the speech, which was from Give Us the Ballot. One of the lines that he said and he went in on democrats and republicans and called them both lukewarm but he had a line in there that said they speak with the high blood pressure of words but anemic in their deeds. They did not fall short on Monday and they were not anemic in their deeds as a city and as a community. He wanted to thank every donor that made a donation to make this the best scholarship awards presentation that he believes Whitehall has seen in a long time. Initially this scholarship was supposed to be two scholarships of at least two hundred dollars. They put out the call to members of the community and that money went from two five hundred dollar scholarships to them raising in a thirty-day span, just on the generosity of the donors, four thousand two hundred dollars that went to give scholarships to all four students. He always looks at the word love as a verb, normally an action item like show him you love him, but on Monday he experienced Whitehall more like a noun and that Whitehall became a place of love. It became a place where not only the every segment of the community pulled together in love to do something that was more than themselves. He believes that any of them can pat themselves on the back because they gave honor to the legacy of Doctor Reverend Martin Luther King Jr and what they did demonstrated it not just in their words but also in their deeds. He congratulated the donors and the award recipients. They all got scholarships of at least one thousand dollars each.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – he had no official report. He asked for favorable consideration on Ordinance 004-2023.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present.

Treasurer Shaquille Alexander– he 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. Minutes for the January 5, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

THIRD READING:

There was no legislation for Third Reading.

SECOND READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 001-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

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.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 002-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

ENACTING CHAPTER(S) 517.45 DISTRIBUTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS WITHOUT A LICENSE AND 517.46 ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES (EXHIBIT A).

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 002-2023 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Kantor- Yes; Heck- Yes; Smith- Yes; Bailey- Yes; Dixon- Yes; Elmore- Yes; Conison -Yes and Ordinance No. 002-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 002-2023 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Kantor- Yes; Heck- Yes; Smith- Yes; Bailey- Yes; Dixon- No; Elmore- Yes; Conison -Yes and Ordinance No. 002-2023 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 003-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 741 OF THE WHITEHALL CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH THE TOBACCO PRODUCTS SALES LICENSING PROGRAM.

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 003-2023 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Kantor- Yes; Heck- Yes; Smith- Yes; Bailey- Yes; Dixon- Yes; Elmore- Yes; Conison -Yes and Ordinance No. 003-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 003-2023 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Kantor- Yes; Heck- Yes; Smith- Yes; Bailey- Yes; Dixon- No; Elmore- Yes; Conison -Yes and Ordinance No. 003-2023 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 004-2023 was read by title only by President Pro Tem Bailey:

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWELVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$1,212,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/PROJECT FUND (311) TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT (311.000.54000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 004-2023 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Kantor- Yes; Heck- Yes; Smith- Yes; Bailey- Yes; Dixon- Yes; Elmore- Yes; Conison -Yes and Ordinance No. 004-2023 was suspended.

City Administrator Woodruff said for the record because it is a first reading and they are asking for it to be passed with a large sum of money. At the end of last year, their private development partner for the Woodcliff

Redevelopment made their required portion payment for the portion of the infrastructure that is currently being installed up at Woodcliff. Council last year allowed for the transfer of those funds from the general fund to the 311 Capital Improvement Fund. This ordinance would appropriate it from the fund to the account so the city can put in the necessary purchase orders to allow for payment to the contractor in a timely fashion.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Ordinance No. 004-2023 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Kantor- Yes; Heck- Yes; Smith- Yes; Bailey- Yes; Dixon- Yes; Elmore- Yes; Conison -Yes and Ordinance No. 004-2023 was adopted.

#### POLL PUBLIC:

Dustin Holfinger, 3098 (?), Springfield, OH wanted to say thank you not only for the robust conversation around tobacco retail licensing but also for the word you put in to speaking with constituents, reaching out to them, garnering their interest, their thoughts and interests regarding this policy and the protection of the future of the City of Whitehall. By instituting this type of policy in your city, you have taken a stand and shown that you are not interested in big tobacco taking hold of your community and your children. This topic is very important to them and the Franklin County Health Department and obviously very important to the American Heart Association. Thank you for your support and your time.

#### COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

Chairperson Conison said the WWCA Easter Egg Hunt would be held on April 1, 2023. More information to follow.

#### POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Kantor thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended. He commended Megan Meyer on the presentation and he looks forward to her email. He thanked Dustin for his presentation last week. He explained why he voted yes. He was displeased with four items. He thanked Mr. Woodruff and the Administration for meeting him more than half way and explaining things to him. He still is hooked on the one. He has spoken to Mr. Bailey about it also. He thanked everyone again.

Chairperson Heck thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended. She echoed Mr. Bivens and said the event was phenomenal. She always enjoys that event every year and she feels it get better every year. She appreciates Mr. Bivens, Councilperson Elmore and everyone who put on this event. She thanked Megan for the presentation and she looks forward to getting the slideshow. Congratulations to all the Employees of the Year winners.

Chairperson Smith thanked everyone watching from home and those who in attendance. Congrats to the Employee of the Year recipients. She is excited to look into the survey as well. She appreciated the discussion of the trends a little bit up and down but looking at the whole picture of multiple years. Are they going in the right direction? She was not able to attend the breakfast but she knows as a high school student receiving scholarships how much of a difference it made. Even today as an adult, she knows it made an impact on her life.

Chairperson Dixon thanked everyone who tuned in from home and those in attendance. He thanked Ms. Meyers for her presentation. It is always remarkable how she remembers everything. He thanked Mr. Holfinger for speaking tonight. He congratulated and thanked all the Employees of the Year for their amazing work here in the city. It was wonderful to hear how well the Martin Luther King breakfast went and the money raised was terrific.

Chairperson Elmore thanked the viewers for taking the time out to stay informed and seeing what is going on in the city. She congratulated all the award recipients of Employee of the Year and thanked them for doing an amazing job and working to the highest level to achieve employee of the year. She thanked her co-chair, Attorney Michael Bivens, she echoed his sentiments; she thought this was one of the best ones they have had. What started out as A Day of Unity in 2017 then halted by covid in 2020 to be re-invigorated in 2023. The outpouring of love for all the people who showed up, the support, to her it was the reconnecting of community. She appreciated all the hard work and the support from the administration, she thanked the Mayor for even making this holiday possible and she thanked Council for voting it in. She thanked Superintendent Wells, all the school board members, other city officials, Director of Park and Recreation and all the people that assisted in the success of the MLK program. Teamwork make the Dream work and as long as they all work together, they can achieve anything they need to for this city. She knows the recipients will do great things. The information they submitted and the heart that went in to writing the speeches in what it means to give us the ballot.

Chairperson Conison echoed everyone sentiments. She looks at these surveys, and she looks at the surveys she puts out every year to her employees and we all know that one day someone can think this way and tomorrow they can think another way and the results will be completely different. She is happy to see that the results have stayed consistent. It says a lot. It shows we have some improvements to be made and she knows that each one of them continues to want to do and make improvements forward.

President Pro Tem Bailey thanked every for coming. He thinks every year when they get to this point of recognizing the Employee of the Year it is really a reminder of the kind of leadership that is in city hall and the efforts that are made to not only acquire but to retain talent. Those folks do not come in and do a job they serve the community. That is the difference. It is not just one person in a department; he thinks they will find many folks who work for the city have that same feeling in their heart. It is time we recognized that we are the city of pride and diversity and we know how to work with that. Together they stand strong.

Having nothing further, Mr. Kantor moved to adjourn and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President