

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter called the January 18, 2022 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Ms. Heck.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2022.

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – January 18, 2022

President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

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:

Gerald Dixon
Lori Elmore
Karen Conison
Wes Kantor
Amy Smith
Bob Bailey

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the January 04, 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:

Marcus J. Salter, QMHS, Housing Stability Specialist, Community Mediation Services of Central Ohio
It is their goal to work with community partners to provide Housing Stability/Homeless Prevention assistance to aid in combatting the massive tide of evictions filed in Franklin County each year. CMS is a not for profit organization established in 1989. They are currently celebrating over 30 years of service delivery in Central Ohio. The CMS mission is to prevent the harmful effects of unresolved conflict by providing and teaching state of-the-art dispute resolution strategies that empower disputants to create lasting resolutions to their conflicts while maintaining their critically important relationships. CMS agency services include mediation of tenant/landlord, family, neighborhood/workplace and other organizational disputes. They offer four to forty hour mediation and personal/professional conflict resolution courses. Since 2011, CMS has provided tenant/landlord dispute mediation services to approximately twelve hundred families with three thousand household members annually. Since 2013, they have provided two-hour eviction/housing stability workshops in the community for approximately nine hundred low income at risk annually. Currently, more than seventeen thousand court eviction summons are issued each year in Franklin County. Benefits of mediation range from helping tenants to understand the eviction process and related vocabulary help to develop very detailed settlement proposals for landlord's consideration and mediators can link tenants who are in court immediately to a representative that is onsite from Legal Aid and Franklin County Jobs and Family services. There are mediated agreement types such as pay to stay plan or the voluntary move out plan. Eighty-five percent of the time, tenants and landlords reach voluntary agreement

to their eviction related conflict. For more information contact CMS at 614-228-7191, ext. 15 to speak with Mr. Salter or he can be reached by email at Msalter@communitymediation.com.

Mr. Salter answered questions from Council at this time.

POLL PUBLIC:

Kevin Jones, Lofts at Norton Crossing, Whitehall, OH said he wanted to talk about the appointment of the Treasurers position from the City. Voting is the foundation stone of political action. Those were the words of Dr. King and as we celebrate his twenty-seventh National Day of Service yesterday, he is reminded of the fact that he stood for things like inclusion. In recent years, we have taken the idea of equity and embraced it, but we have forgot about the idea of inclusion. Inclusion is critical to be a part of the process of democracy and community. With the current vacancy in the administration for City Treasurer, he has one simple request, to be a part. There is no better opportunity for Whitehall residents to be civically engaged beyond (?). He is advocating on behalf of all the residents of Whitehall to be a part of the process, whether that is a public forum or a community town hall. It is important for them to be engaged and to be a part of what is going on in local government. He appreciates the opportunity to be there today.

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 Dixon reported that they met 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 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 Kantor 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 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.

Public Safety – Chairperson Elmore 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 again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Kim Maggard – she asked for favorable consideration on Ordinance 127-2021, 128-2021 and 002-2022, 003-2022, 004-2022, as they have to do with union contracts. She would be remiss if she did not have the opportunity to say thank you to the Employees of the Year. These employees make Whitehall the great city that it is. They all care so much about how they do their job and how they interact with the

public and with each other. Those are the reasons why they were chosen as Employee of the Year. Thank you so much to Casey Thomas, Chuck Thacker, Ben Leonard and Tanner Williams.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff – he had no official report. He echoed the Mayors sentiments congratulating all of the 2021 Employees of the Year.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – was not present.

City Auditor Steve Quinzel – he had no official report. He asked for favorable consideration on Resolution 007-2022. He explained to the newest members of Council what a then and now certificate is.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – he had no official report. He congratulated all of the Employees of the Year. He asked for favorable consideration on Resolution 001-2022.

Treasurer– vacant

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 December 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new D1, D2 liquor permit for GOLDEN CAFÉ HOUSE LLC, DBA GOLDEN CAFÉ HOUSE, 200 A SOUTH HAMILTON ROAD, WHITEHALL, OH 43213.
2. Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new D5 liquor permit for TEE JAYES COUNTRY PLACE INC, DBA TEE JAYES COUNTRY PLACE, 350 SOUTH HAMILTON ROAD, WHITEHALL, OH 43213.
3. Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new C1 liquor permit for DOLGEN MIDWEST LLC, DBA DOLLAR GENERAL STORE 19263, 3866 EAST BROAD STREET, WHITEHALL, OH 43213.

Mr. Kantor moved to elect Mr. Bailey as President Pro Tempore for the term beginning in 2022 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and resulted, as follows: Dixon, yes; Elmore, yes; Conison, yes; Kantor, yes; Smith, yes; Bailey, Abstain. Mr. Bailey was elected President Pro Tempore.

President Potter thanked Mr. Bailey as he was invaluable this last term and he looks forward to his assistance with Council moving forward.

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.

The following Resolutions moved to the top of the list so the Employees of the Year and their families could leave after the presentation.

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2022 was read by title only by *President Potter*:

RECOGNIZING CASEY THOMAS AS THE 2021 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.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 002-2022 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 002-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Resolution No. 002-2022 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 002-2022 was adopted.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff read and presented Casey Thomas with her Resolution for 2021 Employee of the Year. Casey's coworkers wrote accolades to her and Mr. Woodruff read some of them to her.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2022 was read by title only by *President Potter*:

RECOGNIZING CHUCK THACKER AS THE 2021 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. 003-2022 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 003-2022 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Resolution No. 003-2022 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 003-2022 was adopted.

Director Shannon Sorrell read and presented Chuck Thacker with his Resolution for 2021 Employee of the Year. Chuck graduated from Whitehall Yearling High School and everyone knows Chuck. It has been a pleasure to have him join their team and is willing to learn.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2022 was read by title only by *President Potter*:

RECOGNIZING BEN LEONARD AS THE 2021 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. 004-2022 and Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 004-2022 was suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Resolution No. 004-2022 and Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 004-2022 was adopted.

Fire Chief Preston Moore read and presented Ben Leonard with his Resolution for 2021 Employee of the Year. He thanked Ben Leonard for being this type of employee and shared a couple stories with those in attendance.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:

RECOGNIZING TANNER WILLIAMS AS THE 2021 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. 005-2022 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 005-2022 was suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Resolution No. 005-2022 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 005-2022 was adopted.

Police Chief Mike Crispen read and presented Tanner Williams with his Resolution for 2021 Employee of the Year. He said that Tanner once told him that his main goal from years ago, because of his experience with a DARE officer, it changed him and said all he wanted to do was become a School Resource Officer. He wanted to work with the kids and now he does. He is changing the lives of our future leaders in Whitehall.

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 127-2021 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATTACHED TO CHAPTER 1122 OF THE 1970 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, CHANGING THE ZONING ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON 3540 E. MAIN STREET, AND 739 & 721 MAPLEWOOD AVENUE, PARCEL NUMBERS 090-002122, 090-001890, 090-003640, 090-001900, 090-002485, 090-003638, 090-008240 FROM R-3 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AND GENERAL COMMERCE DISTRICT (GCD) TO A-2 APARTMENT DISTRICT, PROPERTY OWNED BY MAMA COMPANY INC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduce and moved to adopt Ordinance No. 127-2021 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Dixon, no; Elmore, yes; Conison, yes; Kantor, yes; Smith, yes; Bailey, yes. and Ordinance No. 127-2021 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 128-2021 was read by title only by President Potter:

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 1123.06(c)(7) TO ALLOW AN APARTMENT DWELLING STRUCTURE CONTAINING MORE THAN TWELVE DWELLING UNITS ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT ON 3540 E. MAIN STREET, AND 739 & 721 MAPLEWOOD AVENUE, PARCEL NUMBERS 090-002122, 090-001890, 090-003640, 090-001900, 090-002485, 090-003638, 090-008240, PROPERTY OWNED BY MAMA COMPANY INC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to adopt Ordinance No. 128-2021 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Dixon, no; Elmore, yes; Conison, yes; Kantor, yes; Smith, yes; Bailey, yes and Ordinance No. 128-2021 was adopted.

SECOND READING:

THERE IS NO LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 002-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, CAPITAL CITY LODGE 9 FOR THE CONTRACT TERM JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 002-2022 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 002-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Kantor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 002-2022 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 002-2022 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 003-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA LOCAL NO. 4320 FOR THE CONTRACT TERM JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 003-2022 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 003-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Kantor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 003-2022 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 003-2022 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 004-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AMENDING THE TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL 161.37(d) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED SERVICE DEPARTMENT AND STREET EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 004-2022 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 004-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Kantor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 004-2022 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 004-2022 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 001-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL 2.83-MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING MOTOR VEHICLES, COMMUNICATIONS, OTHER EQUIPMENT, BUILDINGS, AND SITES FOR SUCH BUILDINGS USED DIRECTLY IN THE OPERATION OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES OF PERMANENT OR PART-TIME POLICE, COMMUNICATIONS, OR ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE SAME, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ANY EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR SUCH PERSONNEL UNDER SECTION 145.48 OR 742.33 OF THE REVISED CODE, FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OPERATED BY A POLICE DEPARTMENT, OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED COSTS; AND REQUESTING THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THAT ADDITIONAL LEVY, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 5705.03 AND 5705.19(J) OF THE REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff said at this time, Deputy Director for Public Affairs Megan Myer and Police Chief Mike Crispen are going to give a presentation on Safer Whitehall Levy.

Director Meyer said it was good to be back after several months away. On the agenda, this evening is a resolution for your consideration. You would be initiating a process to put a property tax levy on the ballot for the May 3, 2022 election. For anyone watching on Facebook Live, the slides are on the City of Whitehall Facebook page. She gave an outline of the things they were going to chat about, such as Safer Whitehall Levy consideration timeline, the police budget and operational needs, the impact on residential property taxes and the public information campaign.

Main Objective: Increase public safety resources; Continue to improve outcomes

Police station expansion and renovation, technology enhancements

Addition of six new sworn officers

Total Annual Cost; \$1.39 million

Police Station; \$7 million

Police Officers: \$900,000 (approx. \$150,000 in salary and benefits per officer)

Proposed Funding Sources:

General Obligation Bond: \$7 million (\$490,000 Annual Debt Service)

Safer Whitehall Levy: \$790,000 (\$490,000 Debt Service, \$300,000 Officers)

COPS Grant: \$675,000 Year 1, \$450,000 Year 2, \$225,000 Year 3

General Fund: \$150,000 Year 2, \$375,000 Year 3, \$600,000 Year 4+

Chief Crispen said one of the things that is important that we are asking is the return on investment. He spoke on the return on investment that Council has already done for them.

2017 – 2020 Safer Whitehall Outcomes

- 35% Police Budget increase since beginning of Safer Whitehall Initiative (2017)
- 46% Police Budget increase since Mayor Maggard took office (2012)
- 23% of General Fund is dedicated to Police operations (not including benefits)
- 27% reduction in violent crimes
- 38% reduction in robberies
- 46% reduction in burglaries

Return on Investment

- 76% success rate in first year of Youth Diversion Program
- 7 participants in 2021 Whitehall Youth Citizens Police academy
- 12 Safer Whitehall Town Halls held since 2016

Future Operational Needs: Officers

- 48 Officers prior to Safer Whitehall Initiative
- + 6 Officers since 2016
- + 6 additional Officers needed

Director Meyer gave an overview of future operational needs and the example funding sources for six new Whitehall Police Officers (~\$150K each)

Chief Crispen gave an overview of the Future Operational Needs: Facilities

- Proposed 13,000 sq. ft. addition and 9000 sq. ft. renovation of existing Police Station on Yearling Road (last renovated in 2011)
- Project would include upgrades to the training room, firing range, dispatch center, reception area, administrative offices, fleet garage and property room.
- Proposal includes a return to centralized police, fire and emergency medical service dispatching in Whitehall.

The Safer Whitehall Levy is 2.822 mills beginning with tax year 2022. The cost per \$100,000.00 home price annually would be \$98.77 and seniors with the Homestead exemption would pay \$74.08 yearly. There will be a public information campaign for residents.

Director Meyer and Chief Crispen answered questions from Council at this time.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 001-2022 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 001-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Resolution No. 001-2022 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 001-2022 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 006-2022 was read by title only by *President Potter*:

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH LDG MULTIFAMILY, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 006-2022 and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 006-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Kantor moved to adopt Resolution No. 006-2022 and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 006-2022 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 007-2022 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. 007-2022 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 007-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Resolution No. 007-2022 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 007-2022 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC:

Council Clerk Ogg read the following:

Jeff Thoburn
466 Maplewood
Whitehall, OH

In 2002, Luke Skywalker's mom, Padme' said "To be angry is to be human." Now, 20 years later, and after learning that our right to vote on the Maplewood zoning issue that appeared on our ballots last November was a right that was null and void, it seems an anger exists within many Whitehall residents that I've connected with. And I believe that anger will be reinvigorated each time we residents look at a gargantuan - sized Enclave planted as a city cornerstone at the entrance to the "woods of Whitehall". I also believe it's unlikely that a sense of anger will subside during the coming election cycle, if voter engagement and mobilization have any merit. Had some semblance of a logical build size for the MAMA property been conceived, then the resulting events, including the Supreme Court case, and these sour feelings, could no doubt have been avoided. No one that I've discussed this folly with is anti-density, but are instead only in agreement how dense the minds were that concocted the build size. If Clay Cooper was being factual when he announced at the library deflect-the-blame meeting that city planners envisioned a 5-story Enclave, and that WODA Cooper talked them down to 4 stories, then a slight tip of the hat to him, as he lies in wait with his LIE-TECH taxpayer-funded money source, raring to go on the Maplewood TIF plot. Ironically, it appears that those cautionary tales I read about TIF builds and property tax receipts and inflation are attributing to a 2.83-MILL need. I assume that's considered to be a small price to pay by the 31% of owner-occupants so they can exist in the caring hands of the masterplanners. Lastly, while Whitehall ain't New Albany is an understandable given, New Albany getting a chip manufacturer and Whitehall getting a fish n'

chips crammed into a shopping center parking lot is a pricelessly comedic comparison I couldn't avoid. Thank you, and thanks DSCC.

Mike Shannon, 5166 Etna Road, Whitehall, OH said as he was at Council on another matter he was not aware that this was coming before Council this evening. He wanted to thank the leadership he sees before him for being proactive and addressing what is not only going on in our community but is going on in the state and the country with the men and woman in blue as they try to perform their duties. By sheer coincidence today is the thirty-ninth anniversary of his father, Joe Shannon's passing. His father was a Columbus Police Officer, his grandfather was a Columbus Police Officer, his great-grandfather was on the Mounted Calvary, and he is proud to say that he has a daughter in law enforcement. She actually served under the Chief in his previous lifetime. It is hard to put into words what it means to him personally but he cannot deviate one thing that is over riding in his mind and that is Terry McDowell. With his loss, there were a lot of positives and the Whitehall community has always helped their safety forces. They have held police and fire in highest regard. To memorialize Terry place in our history and at the same time making essential improvements to law enforcement with additional manpower and improved services. That building is archaic as is everything else in that building and it could be a state of the art law enforcement building. He wanted to commend them and thank them from the bottom of his heart and he must mention that his wife Jane is making him say the following. She has a real interest in the school board and is discussing with the chain of command there about resuscitating safety town. She thinks it is an important component to deal with what we are dealing with right now. By the time some of these kids get to junior high, it is too late. By the time some of these kids get to sixth grade, it is too late. By getting to them in kindergarten or first grade and letting them see that police and fire officials are real people, putting them through safety town, he thinks it is priceless. He is hopeful that the school board and the passage of this levy, that it may be enough to have safety town again. With that, he thanked Council for their indulgence and he thanks them on behalf of himself and his family.

Jackie Plank, 771 Robinwood Avenue, Whitehall, OH said she had a question about the levy. Being a real estate agent, herself and many people looked up their property value on Zillow and she could sell today for two-twenty. She wanted to clarify and ask the question, is it market value or is it the taxable value she pays based on her property taxes. Just to clear that up for everyone. She is sure it is on their minds.

Mr. Woodruff said Mr. President, if I could just answer that very quickly.

President Potter said Poll Public is not a conversation time but the question is very good so he will allow it and he thinks it should be answered.

Mr. Woodruff said it is actually based on the value of your home, based on what the Franklin County Auditor is worth, not what a real estate agent believes you could sell it for.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

There was nothing for community date board.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Dixon said after last week's meeting he had a meeting with Mr. Woodruff and the Mayor and he has stated very vocally his concerns about the budget, the levy and so forth. They were very helpful and gave him a lot of information and he thanks them for that. He still have some feelings about all of that and he has asked the Mayor to meet with him, post this meeting to go over those things. They have a few months to think about things, in terms of the tax levy and so forth. He does want to say when he was campaigning that one of his bullet points was that he is one-hundred percent for law enforcement and he wrote with justice. That is how he feels about it. He has spoken with Chief Crispen and his stack of calls to the Whitehall Police department is possibly very thick because as a neighborhood person that does a neighborhood watches thing, he calls in when things are going wrong in the neighborhood. From this point on until May, the community here and of course Facebook and beyond, have a lot to discuss and he hopes it is robust and productive. He thanked Mr. Salter for his presentation, congratulation on the birth of her son and the Chief's for their presentations. He congratulated all of the Employees of the Year and the Poll Public folks. He said whenever you could mention Terry McDowell's name; it is a good thing. He thanked Mr. Jones for his words about inclusion and the gentleman named Jeff. He seems to be very intelligent and he likens him to Mark Twain. He has a very sharp sense of humor and he appreciates that. He spoke with Shannon Warner and with his committee; he has scheduled a meeting for next week to talk about the senior center and other things. He looks forward to that. He thanked everyone for joining them tonight, in house and on Facebook tonight.

Chairperson Elmore said she feels this was a very good council meeting, very informative and good questions. She thanked everyone for their Poll Public and for the things, they add to Council help them in the decisions they make. She congratulated all the Employees of the Year. When you have employees who rise about the occasion, they do need to be recognized and she is a big proponent for recognizing good work and good employees. It does not go un-noticed. She thanked Marcus Salter for his presentation. He has been a friend of hers since the 80's. She wanted to speak to an observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day that many people observe. Often times, Dr. Martin Luther King is remembered as, I have a dream. He was more than just a dreamer. He was an activist and he was a fighter. During this time, we are really struggling with, as a country, with voting rights. It was three years ago that the Supreme Court rendered a decision regarding Brown vs the Board of Education, which was the racial segregation of public schools being unconstitutional. It was simple, eloquent, unequivocal language, a decision for all men of good will. The decision has not gone without opposition and risen to honest proportion. States have opened up in defiance, even more; all types of conniving methods are still being to prevent Negroes (Dr. Martin Luther King's words) from becoming registered voters. The denial of the sacred right is a tragic betrayal of the highest mandates of our democratic tradition. Dr. King exhorted the President at the time, Dwight Eisenhower and members of Congress, to ensure voting rights for all people. Some of the other speeches talked about the benefits of giving them the right to vote and what it would do. He was a fighter for justice. Just to remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, he was civil right advocate who fought for voting rights, which is an issue that is still being fought today. The speech he gave was in 1957. We are in 2022 and still looking for the passage of voting rights. Although there is a dream had, until our feet are put to the fire and continue to pursue the issues of justice, social just and peace, they will still be back in 1957. When it is said, do not let the dream die, it is for everyone. Do not let a dream die but continue to fight so that the legacy is fulfilled of what Dr. Martin Luther King had done in the first place. Stay strong and courageous, calm yet positive, work passionately and un-relentlessly and not loose heart because it is easy to lose heart with all of this, or become bitter but to meet hate with love, love your enemies, forgive those who speak of evil, or in unbecoming ways. Last but not least, love conquers hate and keep moving because the struggle continues.

Chairperson Conison thanked everyone for coming and those viewing from home. She congratulated the Employees of the Year. What Ms. Elmore said hit hard. Today she took care of a racial discrimination investigation at work. As a person who works in Human Resources, she listen to all sides and does not show a lot of emotion when you are hearing things. It does hit hard. There is no room for hate. They do not want people who act that way and if she can say something to the Whitehall community is love thy neighbor, show them respect, and see if you can help them and thank you for viewing.

Chairperson Kantor thanked Ms. Elmore and Ms. Conison for their words because what they said is true. They live in right now a tough society. He hopes that it will get better. He thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. He thanked Jeff for his letter. He thanked the Employees of the Year. Chief Crispen and Megan gave a great presentation tonight and he has had a few calls but he has spoken to many people who have asked questions like the one Jackie Plank asked tonight. He thanked Mr. Salter and Mr. Shannon for coming in. He is one hundred percent in agreement with bringing safety town back and it is much needed. He hopes the schools and the city can figure something out.

Chairperson Smith thanked everyone who came tonight and those watching from home. She thanked the Employees of the Year. Many great things have been said and she agrees. She looks forward to learning from each of them with her new beginnings on Council.

Chairperson Bailey thanked all the legislators for all the items that were passed tonight. He is very proud of those things and he thinks they are important. The Chief talked about the return on investment and if you look at that aspect of it, it is definitely there. Our City services are the best anywhere. He would like to recognize someone who is a past Council member and past sitting President of Council. It is through some of the work he did with his fellow colleagues, back when; it is affecting some of the results seen today. He would like to recognize Jim Graham.

President Potter thanked Mr. Salter as he thought it was some interest information that he shared tonight. He congratulated the City employees on being recognized for their outstanding work. He thanked Megan and the Chief for their presentation. He thought it was very informative and is much appreciated.

Chairperson Kantor thanked Director Sorrell for her attendance tonight.

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 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2022.

Thomas M. Potter, Council President