

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter called the February 1, 2022 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.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2022.

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – February 1, 2022

President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 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:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the January 18, 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.

POLL PUBLIC:

Council Clerk Ogg read the following:

Jeff Thoburn
466 Maplewood
Whitehall, OH

As the second paragraph of the Message from the Mayor on the Whitehall Fiscal Year 2022 Adopted Budget adverts to, key to the city's 2022 spending plan has been the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic and work from home policies have had. Furthermore, the Approved Mayor's Budget states: "While refunds are projected to be \$4 million, actual refunds are difficult to estimate, given the unknown in total number of employees working from home and in the total number of employees who will actually file for a refund." That difficulty in estimating actual income tax receipts and refunds would appear to loom as a factor into the spring of 2023 also, as the pandemic and work from home measures continue. Additionally, Whitehall's 2020 share of the city's \$761 thousand of foregone CRA property tax receipts and \$1.4 million of foregone TIF property tax receipts might be exacerbated in subsequent years as an unknown inflation rate gets factored in. In addition to the claim that the police station has not been renovated since 2011, but did receive a \$3.6 million building addition in 2020, there are property tax payers like my wife, and as well, small business owners that I've talked to, who have also experienced income loss due to the pandemic. All

of the above being considered, Whitehall property tax payers might hope that the city would factor the income tax receipt uncertainty and the ongoing pandemic and current inflationary conditions into their growth plans, and then manage existing city assets so as to address the need for a more and better trained and equipped police force to confront the 54% jump in violent crime from 2019 to 2021, and shelf the \$6 million police station renovation until such time that a clearer picture of the city's future tax receipts exists. For the record, the accumulation of Whitehall voters continues to grow that intends to oppose those who push through faulty plans like the oversized Enclave apartment. Thank you and thanks, DSCC

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 Heck 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 – said she would like to respond to Mr. Thoburn's comment that there was a \$3.6 million building renovation at the Police Department in 2020. That is not correct. There was no such thing. They do a very good job at keeping the officers trained. In fact, she thinks they are the finest department in the state that does that. At the beginning of the year, we always put out training opportunities. Every officer is trained multiple times in many different areas. They offer new training in technology and they continue old trainings to make sure that everyone has the training they need in order to keep the citizen's safe. She asked for favorable consideration on Resolution 009-2022.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff – said he had no official report this evening. He thanked the men and women of the division of public safety, the Police Department for being there this evening as Council will consider Resolution 009-2022. To echo on what the Mayor said, he thinks this Council and the Administration has done everything in their power, without the benefit of hindsight or being able to look into the future to balance their budget in a way that meets the needs of their residents. He will not get into the specifics of the residents Poll Public, other than to say, most of the information he presented in his Poll

Public was not correct and he would be happy to sit down with him anytime to help correct some of the information he has.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – said it is great to see the Whitehall Division of Police there tonight. They just warm his heart to know that they protect the city the way that they do. He thanked them for that. From the City Attorney’s office, in the month of January they successfully prosecuted two hundred twenty one cases. Out of those two hundred twenty one cases, thirty-nine of those were committed of a criminal nature, a misdemeanor, by Whitehall residents, so that is trending about seventeen percent. Speaking of prosecutions, the Whitehall City Attorney’s Office would like to announce that they have a new prosecutor. Her name is Leslie Clark and she comes to the City of Whitehall with twenty years of experience as an attorney. She is a graduate of OSU and he is very excited to have her. She will be their downtown prosecutor so she will make her way over to the Division of Police to introduce herself. She is a phenomenal resource to the City of Whitehall and he looks forward to working with her. Then not to steal Councilperson Elmore’s thunder because he just has to do it because he always enjoys when she does that during Black History Month by giving some fun facts about Black History Month since it did start today. Many people know all of the civil rights activists or at least the most common ones, like Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks. He wanted to give a fun fact that many may not know. March 2, 1955, a person by the name of Claudette Clovin. She was arrested at the age of fifteen, charged criminally, for not giving up her seat on the bus. This was the beginning and the spark to create the Alabama Bus Boycott. It just goes to show you that there is much history as it relates to individuals that created black history in the United States. Incidentally, that happened nine months before Rosa Parks and it took her about sixty-five years, which was at the end of 2021, to get that record expunged. To this day, he believes she still lives somewhere in the Bronx, NY, but there is a little fun history fact for you.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – he has no official report tonight.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present.

Treasurer– vacant

President Potter – advised that the following Officials’ Reports have been filed in the Council Office since the last meeting: The Auditor’s Expense Report for December 2021, the Auditor’s Bank Report for December 2021, the Auditor’s Statement of Cash Position Report for December 2021 and the Auditor’s Revenue Report for December 2021,

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

There were no Communications, Petitions and Claims.

President Potter said he would accept a motion to adopt the Whitehall City Council Rules of Procedure for the term 2022-2023 as agreed upon at the January 25, 2022 Committee meeting. Ms. Elmore so moved and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and resulted, as follows: Elmore, yes; Conison, yes; Kantor, yes; Heck, yes; Smith, yes; Bailey, yes; Dixon, yes. The Rules of Procedure were adopted.

Ms. Conison said she would like to make a motion to appoint Shaquille Alexander for the remaining term as the City Treasurer. Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and resulted, as follows: Elmore, yes; Conison, yes; Kantor, yes; Heck, yes; Smith, yes; Bailey, yes; Dixon, yes. The motion has been adopted.

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:

THERE IS NO LEGISLATION FOR THIRD READING.

SECOND READING:

THERE IS NO LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 005-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:
AMENDING 143.15 (d)(1) TITLED EMERGENCY MEDICAL BILLING.

RESOLUTION NO. 008-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT(S) WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MAIN STREET AND HAMILTON ROAD INTERSECTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2022 was read by title only by President Potter:
A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY THE QUESTION OF 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, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 5705.19(J) AND 5705.191 OF THE REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 009-2022 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 009-2022 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Resolution No. 009-2022 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 009-2022 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

February 8, 2022 is Mask-Up Whitehall. It is a free mask distribution event at City Hall from five to eight p.m. in the parking lot.

February 12, 2022 and February 26, 2022 the Parks and Rec Department is doing a Wellness Weekend at the Y. You can register on the city's Facebook page.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Elmore thanked everyone who is viewing on social media and she thanked Mr. Thoburn for his Poll Public. She thanked the Whitehall Public Safety Forces for coming out in support. She wanted to recognize Attorney Bivens for his fun facts. It is Black History Month and she believes that it is an opportunity for everyone to learn even more about the history. Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history. Often, Black History primarily focuses on Fredrick Douglas, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King types but history is fluid. What was done yesterday is history. What was done before coming to Council is history. Black History Month should not be treated as though it is some separated from our collective American History or somehow just boiled down to the compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington or some of the sports heroes. President Obama said that. It is about the lived experiences of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America. In her reading, this year's theme, Black Health and Wellness, pays homage to medical scholars and health care providers. The theme is especially timely as we enter the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected minority communities and placed unique burdens on Black health care professionals. It is like treasure. If you want to find it, you will search for it. If you search, you will find it. The designated month of February was used to educate about the buried hidden treasurers and contributions of African American continue to add to the fabric of this Republic. There are still a lot of treasurer to be discovered and exposed. That is why history is so important. There is no American History without African American History. The Black experience embedded throughout everything we think of as American History.

Chairperson Conison thanked all of Public Safety for coming out. She congratulated Shaq on his appointment as Treasurer. She was very impressed by his interview, his credentials, his demeanor and honesty and she thinks he is going to be a welcomed addition to this Administration.

Chairperson Kantor thanked everyone who was watching. He congratulated Shaq on his appointment as Treasurer. He said to all the Safety Forces in attendance that he knew the last eighteen months have been (?) across the United States of America. He is glad that each of them have gone home safe to their families at the end of the day. He thanked them for all they do for our City and that he thinks there is no one better than our Police Department.

Chairperson Heck thanked everyone viewing from home and all those in attendance tonight. She congratulated Shaq and she hopes everyone stays safe with the weather that is heading this way.

Chairperson Smith thanked everyone viewing from home and all Safety Forces in attendance tonight. She congratulated Shaq and is looking forward to another member of the community joining them along with his dedication and desire to serve his community. She hopes everyone has a safe trip home this evening.

Chairperson Bailey said first, he wanted to congratulate Treasurer Alexander. He said thank you was not enough to say to our Safety Forces with what they face on a daily basis. It is greatly appreciated during these times. They are top notch. There are many prayers said for each of them while they are on the streets.

Chairperson Dixon said he would like to thank Mr. Thoburn for his Poll Public comments. He thanked all of the Public Safety Forces in attendance tonight. I goes without saying, and he agrees with everyone on the dais how much they mean to this community and he thinks the community has been supportive with them. He hopes they continue to be so. He congratulated Shaquille Alexander and said he was a very impressive young man. He was glad to vote yes for him tonight. He wanted to acknowledge Black History Month with a few words. Like Ms. Elmore, he believes that Black History is American History. Just as he, as a gay man, has June, which has afforded him and the rest of the country an opportunity to look upon his particular thing as part of this country's history. He hopes that one day they simply have history. He thanked Ms. Elmore for her eloquent comments and he seconds the notion that Black History is American History. He thanked everyone for listening and watching from home tonight.

President Potter congratulated Treasurer Alexander. It will be an honor to work with him and is looking forward to it. He thanked Chief Crispen and all the Officers for coming tonight. He was very glad Resolution 009-2022 passed this evening and he is excited about the prospects of that moving forward. He thanked those watching from home and for joining in this evening.

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 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2022.

Thomas M. Potter, Council President