

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter called the February 7, 2023 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Chairperson Bailey.

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

Auditor Quincel will be having a retirement in his office at the end of September 2023. He would like to hire someone and let that employee train for six months with the current Payroll Specialist.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2023.

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – February 7, 2023

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

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

Ms. Elmore 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 Bailey was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the January 17, 2023 agenda and regular meeting minutes and the January 24, 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.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Conison reported that the committee met two weeks ago 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 met two weeks ago 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 met two weeks ago 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 met two weeks ago 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 met two weeks ago 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 met two weeks ago 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 met two weeks ago 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 010-2023. There are many things happening this year such as Fourth of July and all the festivals. The need to start thinking about these things is now so that things can be in place.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff – was not present.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – in the month of January, the City Attorney's office handled six hundred forty seven cases. This time last year, there were only two hundred thirty six cases. The majority of the cases were traffic citations. Out of those six hundred forty seven cases, Whitehall residents committed sixty-one and that is about nine percent. It is Black History Month. There is a little known division called the 761st Black Panther Tank Division. They were activated on April 1, 1942. They fought in the Battle of the Bulge. They were an African American Tanker Division that were great and their motto was "Come out Fighting". In 2004, he was speaking to a man, Staff Sergeant Russell K. Mann who mentioned an incident that happened down in Camp Clayborne, Louisiana where the tankers got into racial tensions and they actually fired up their tanks and were going to storm the town. One of their commanding officers who they really respected stopped them at the time. One of the most famous officers in that unit was Jackie Robinson before he became a baseball great. Staff Sergeant Russell K. Mann was Mr. Bivens grandfather.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – he and the Deputy Tax Auditor had a phone meeting with the Auditor from Julian & Grube who will be preparing the cities audited basic financial statement for 2022. Two hours later, he received an email from the other set of auditors from Julian & Grube that will be auditing everything else for 2022. He asked for favorable consideration on Ordinance 008-2023, 009-2023, 010-2023 and Resolution 006-2023.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present.

Treasurer Shaquille Alexander– he had no official report. He echoed Auditor Quincel's request for favorable consideration on Ordinance 008-2023, 009-2023, 010-2023 and Resolution 006-2023.

President Potter – advised that the following reports have been filed in the Council office since the last meeting: The Mayors Report to Council for December 2022, The Auditor's Expense Reports for December 2022, The Auditor's Bank Reports for December 2022, The Auditor's Statement of Cash Position Reports for December 2022 and the Auditor's Revenue Reports for December 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Agenda for the February 2, 2023 Whitehall Planning Commission meeting.

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.

THIRD 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.

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to adopt Resolution 001-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution 001-2023 was adopted.

SECOND READING:

There was no legislation for Second Reading.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 005-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

ACCEPTING TITLE TO PARCEL 090-008416-00 FROM THE WHITEHALL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION FOR USE AS A PUBLIC PARK.

ORDINANCE NO. 006-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO AEP OHIO ON PARCEL 090-003999-00 AS DESCRIBED IN ATTACHMENT A.

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL 161.37(c) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED OFFICE OF CITY AUDITOR AND TAX COMMISSIONER, AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF 161.38(a) TITLED SALARY SCHEDULE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dixon introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 008-2023 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 008-2023 was suspended.

Mr. Dixon moved to adopt Ordinance No. 008-2023 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 008-2023 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 009-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

APPROVING AND MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING TWO HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THREE DOLLARS AND 89/00 (\$207,483.89) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE FUNDS DETAILED IN THE TABLE BELOW TO THE VARIOUS EXPENSE ACCOUNTS ALSO DETAILED IN THE TABLE BELOW AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 009-2023 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 009-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 009-2023 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 009-2023 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 010-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

APPROVING AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$7,500.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE LIFELOCK EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.900.51530) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 010-2023 and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 010-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 010-2023 and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 010-2023 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 006-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

RESOLVING TO APPROVE “THEN AND NOW” CERTIFICATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution 006-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution 006-2023 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Resolution 006-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution 006-2023 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC:

David Hout and Sharon Hout, both of 5000 Dimson Dr N, Whitehall, OH expressed their interest in having a discussion with the City of Whitehall in reference to tiny houses. Mr. Hout had numerous pictures and documentation on tiny houses, which he turned over to Ms. Ogg at the end of his poll public. Ms. Hout was there to support her son. She expressed her displeasure with not having family sit down types of restaurants in Whitehall. She extended an invitation to all to come to the Whitehall Senior Center for a visit.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

Deputy Director of Public Affairs Megan Meyer reminded everyone of the 2023 State of the City Address hosted by Mayor Maggard on March 8, 2023 at the YMCA. It is free to anyone that wants to attend and are asking that you register in advance on the city's website or you can find the link on the city's Facebook page.

Mayor Maggard said the Whitehall Yearling High School Hall of Fame is this Friday at 6:00 p.m. at the high school. The fireworks will probably be a little longer this year. Inflation has affected fireworks this year and she put in a little extra in the budget.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Heck thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended in person. She thanked Sharon and David for speaking during poll public. She thanked City Attorney Bivens for sharing his interesting history fact as well as the data he always provides them.

Chairperson Smith thanked everyone watching from home and those who in attendance. She is interested in continuing the conversation with Davis and Sharon Hout after the meeting. Tiny homes is something she finds interesting.

Chairperson Dixon said Mr. Bivens must be proud of his grandfather's accomplishments. Speaking of Black History Month he would reiterate himself that his feeling is that black history is American history. He thanked everyone watching from home, those in attendance and those that participated tonight. He responded to the topic of tiny homes, he attended a seminar on tiny homes recently and it was informative. He does not know what Whitehall's intent is or what they can do to consider it for the future. He appreciates them coming out and perhaps tiny homes is a conversation they and the Whitehall government can have.

Chairperson Elmore thanked the viewers today, David and Sharon for coming out and everyone else in attendance. She expressed her excitement over the Woodcliff demolition. She does here from residents who are asking what will be happening with that area. She has referred them back to Zach's video. She is looking forward to the State of the City Address. She congratulated Mr. Bivens on the great history and historical facts and it shows the richness they all have in their families. With Black History, there are not enough Tuesdays in February to recognize all the contributions African Americans have made to this country and the building of this Nation. In addition, there is a multitude of products invented and services used every day by African Americans that make our everyday lives easier. Although February has been designated as Black History Month, the contributions continue to be past contributions, present contributions and will continue to be future contributions. She is thankful to come from a rich heritage of African American Indigenous people. She thanked everyone who recognizes that this is not just black history; it is their history. It is the history of this Nation.

Chairperson Conison thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended. Years ago, she saw a program on television about tiny homes. She immediately put her order in to her daughter. She said tiny home transformation is amazing. She would like to see them happen a little more in all communities.

Chairperson Kantor thanked David and Sharon for coming in. He thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended. He thought it was awesome about Mr. Bivens grandfather. He wondered if the increase in citations is due to people being out more and the fact that the pandemic has lifted. Remember February is American Heart Month.

(Mr. Bivens could not comment, as he did not know what was causing the increase).

President Potter thanked David and Sharon for coming out. He too has seen those tiny house shows and it is amazing how the purpose them. He thinks this warrants further discussion. He thinks that it is wonderful that Mr. Bivens owns that piece of history.

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 7:33p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2023.

Thomas M. Potter, Council President