

WHITEHALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MINUTES – February 09, 2021

Council President Potter called the February 09, 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 Potter
IT Director Bret Henninger
Street Superintendent Jeff Hart

Council Members

Wes Kantor
Larry Morrison
Bob Bailey
Jo Anna Heck
Karen Conison
Lori Elmore

President Potter said IT Director Bret Henninger is with us because of the renewed interest in going to remote meetings. A couple of things has driven this. First, they had a discussion on this some time ago, at that time the technology was not such that IT felt comfortable moving in that direction. Since that time, it has changed. For security reasons and all the other factors that have gone in to it that have been overcome, he has had a chance to meet with Bret last week to talk about the mechanics and how this will work. Obviously, they know why this is a consideration with Covid, it has hit all of them near and dear to their hearts, but more than that, with the numbers coming down which is very encouraging, what they don't know is what the variants are going to do. They are seeing spikes in the number of cases in the U.K., from Africa so he hopes they are not being lulled into a false sense of security. He does not think they can be too careful. They have all heard the stories. City Hall is staggering shift, people working remotely so he thinks they need to give this some serious consideration. To that end, he invited Bret to the podium.

IT Director Bret Henninger thanked Council for allowing him to come and present to them tonight. There have been many questions brought to him these past couple of weeks on virtual City Council meetings. He is hoping he is able to answer most of them if not all of them. He did create a short slide show of what virtual City Council meetings may look like. What you see tonight can be changed. Tonight would be the platform to bring any questions you may have. The requirements for a virtual City Council meeting are an Apple tablet, a laptop with microphone and camera and a strong Wi-Fi signal. These items will help you participate in a virtual meeting. The tablet can be used for document viewing purposes such as agendas and minutes. What he wants to create is something like they have here, something that is easy to use by clicking on shortcuts so they can join a meeting. If you do not have a strong Wi-Fi signal or Wi-Fi, just let his staff know and they can help with this. Make sure your laptop and iPad are fully charged. He is asking that members log on fifteen minutes prior to the meeting so any issues can be dealt with prior to the start of the meeting. Once you join the meeting, you will be able to mute yourself and turn off the webcam until the meeting starts. He asked that everyone be cautious of your surroundings. Make sure you have very good lighting. Notifications are sent prior to the meeting with a link that will give you access to the secure sight for the virtual meeting. From there, by default, they will have the webcam turned off and the mic muted. Both of those will have to be enabled by the member. A tutorial will be provided and is one to two pages long that will help walk through the process as to what this will look like. Facebook Live streaming will continue as it has in the past and the platform used is Go to Meeting.

At this time, IT Director Bret Henninger answered question from Councilmembers.

There will be training on February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm before the City Council meeting.

There was discussion among Councilmembers as to why virtual meetings are needed at this time.

There will be a Resolution brought forth for the meeting next week and it shall be voted on. President Potter said a Resolution will be sent to Ms. Ogg and members will have time to review it before the vote takes place.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There was no discussion in Committee of the Whole.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Councilperson Bailey opened at 7:09 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 006-2021 - DRAFT # 1

APPROVING AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR AND 90/100 DOLLARS (\$253,174.90) FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND (550) TO VARIOUS EXPENSE ACCOUNTS IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilperson Bailey said this is part of the Homeowner Flood Mitigation program and has to do with the backflow preventers, which he feels, was a great thing to Administration created.

(Admin/Fin. Mgt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 02/16/2021–Bailey/Morrison)

ORDINANCE NO. 007-2021 - DRAFT # 2

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND AND NO/DOLLARS (\$180,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND 101 TO THE ACCRUED BENEFIT RESERVE FUND 505; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND AND NO/DOLLARS (\$180,000.00) FROM THE ACCRUED BENEFIT RESERVE FUND 505 TO THE ACCRUED BENEFIT RESERVE EXPENSE ACCOUNT 505.000.51000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilperson Bailey said this is to cover additional expenses due to employee retirements.

(Admin/Fin. Mgt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 02/16/2021–Bailey/Conison)

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2021 - DRAFT # 3

APPROVING AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF THREE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE AND 72/100 DOLLARS (\$311,683.72) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE MUNICIPAL FIBER PROJECT FUND (320) TO THE MUNICIPAL FIBER PROJECT EXPENSE ACCOUNT (320.000.50000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilperson Bailey said this is needed to appropriate the funding that has been received from the State Capital Bill to install the dark fiber. Legislation is needed to move the money to the expense account.

(Admin/Fin. Mgt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 02/16/2021–Bailey/Heck)

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2021 - DRAFT # 4

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

There was no discussion on Resolution 004-2021.

(Admin/Fin. Mgt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 02/16/2021–Bailey/Elmore)

Having no further business, Councilperson Rodriguez closed at 7:12 p.m.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Chairperson Kantor opened at 7:12 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 Kantor closed at 7:13 p.m.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY

Chairperson Elmore opened at 7:13 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was discussion on the Covid-19 vaccine and 65 years and older can now receive their vaccination. Each Council member received a special gift from #Carterkindness this week and they thanked him as well.

Having no further business, Chairperson Elmore closed at 7:14 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson Morrison opened at 7:14 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 009-2021 - DRAFT # 5

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$18,500.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WMPITIE FUND (279) TO THE MAIN YEARLING INCENTIVE ACCOUNT (279-000-50001); MAKING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 (\$18,500.00) FROM THE MAIN YEARLING INCENTIVE ACCOUNT (279-000-50001) TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/PROJECT FUND (311); MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$18,500.00) FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/PROJECT FUND (311) TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT (311-000-54000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Chairperson Morrison said this legislation is for new benches and trash receptacles along Yearling Road and about twenty trash receptacles.

Street Superintendent Jeff Hart said there are twenty-six benches along Yearling Road and Min Street. The ones that are there now were purchase about twenty years ago. They are deteriorating and the bottom of the cans have rusted out. They are looking to buy the ones that match the ones at Norton Crossing. The benches are six feet in length; they are steel and coated with a rubber paint that is resistant to the weather and salt. The benches and trashcans come with a twenty-year guarantee from rust and broken welds.

There was discussion on the period for ordering, receiving and installing the benches and receptacles.

Chairperson Bailey said he had heard from several merchants in the City wanted to express their thankfulness and gratitude for the work that the Service Department does on our street every time it snows.

(Econ. Dev. – 1st reading – ADOPT 02/16/2021–Morrison/Conison)

Having nothing further, Chairperson Morrison closed at 7:20 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

Chairperson Heck opened at 7:20 p.m. and addressed the legislation in her committee, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 010-2021 - DRAFT # 6

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND AND NO/DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE 201 STREET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FUND TO THE 201.000.53000 NEW EQUIPMENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Street Superintendent Jeff Hart said the sign maker has been out of service since mid-December. They have tried to order new head parts that cut the letters and shapes out on the film. The City purchased the unit in 2013, which makes this unit eight years old and the manufacturer is out of business. There are no spare parts on the internet. They are looking at a new unit by Trafficjet. The unit will allow them to make all the traffic and street signs and also print overlay, screen prints and graphic displays. We want to purchase the Trafficjet 1638 print system, the roll-to-roll laminator, nine styles of ink and all the supporting software. The total cost would be \$48,548.00.

(Inf. Maint. & Serv. – 1st reading – ADOPT 02/16/2021–Heck/Morrison)

Having nothing further, Chairperson Heck closed at 7:24 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairperson Conison opened at 7:25p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was no discussion in Public Safety.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Conison closed at 7:25 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Chairperson Kantor opened at 7:25 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Chairperson Kantor said he spoke with Director Sorrell. They are working on five family concerts that will be held at the LaCorte Amphitheatre this year. On the website, they have information and an application to Market on the Green, which is a family farmers market that was designed by employee Cory Ollie.

Chairperson Heck said the YMCA is doing Soccer Squares and sign-ups are through the YMCA. She will be volunteering from 8:00 am until 10:00 and it is for school age children. Limited spots are available.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Kantor closed at 7:26 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council