

# WHITEHALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MINUTES – March 8, 2022

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Council President Potter called the March 8, 2022 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 Thomas Potter  
Mayor Kim Maggard  
City Attorney Michael Bivens  
City Auditor Steve Quinzel  
City Administrator Zach Woodruff  
P & R Director Shannon Sorrell

Council Members

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

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There was no discussion in Committee of the Whole.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Chairperson Heck opened at 6:30 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

PRESENTATION:

Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Sorrell  
Pam & Mark Stout

Director Sorrell said Good evening President Potter, Council, Mayor, Administration & Public joining online. Thank you for the opportunity to share some updates with you this evening. With me tonight are Pam and Mark Stout who have served many years alongside Bob Strait and other board members to ensure t-ball, softball and baseball summer programs were offered in John Bishop Park. The WYAA board has put in countless hours and dedicated endless effort to this program and we cannot thank Bob, Pam and Mark enough for all they have done for our community. Coming into this season, conversations with the WYAA board have led us to where we are today. Due to many challenges, this season the t-ball, baseball and softball program based out of John Bishop Park will transition to a City Parks and Recreation Program. Alongside community volunteers and with Pam and Mark helping us to transition operations, we are committed to continue growing and improving upon the foundation volunteers like Pam, Mark and Bob built in our summer ball program. This year, all coaches will be background checked and NAYS trainings will be provided. We are joining local organizations to expand play with other communities and are still hosting USAAA tournaments in John Bishop Park. As a heads up, I am expecting to send emergency add-on legislation to establish proper accounts for youth sports, so you will receive that soon. Pam and Mark, is there anything you would like to add?

Pam Stouts said her and Mark started out when their kids played tee-ball and now they have kids that play. They have spent many years volunteering but it is really about the kids. She loves watching them play. Her main goal has been concession and running it. It is a big challenge and she does not want to take anything away from Bob. He has done an excellent job. She hated that Bob felt that he had to step down but this was going to be our last year due to health issues. We will be getting volunteers to work. She loves watching the games. Sign-ups have started but they still have much to do. She is looking forward to this coming year and some of the things that Shannon and her group have put together that will be (?) fast

pitch softball the way it used to be. She is working with Bob to get the bank switched over to Heartland. Bob will be signing a certificate of dissolution. She appreciates their time.

Chairperson Dixon said he is interested in the impetus of the changes from the way it has been to the way it is coming to be. Why is it needed? Why are you doing this? Why is this changing?

Director Sorrell said there is a national trend that is being seen in youth sports where we are seeing more options for kids and less overall adult availability in running, administering, coaching and overseeing leagues. The amount of work that Pam, Bob and Mark have put into operating the leagues, running tournaments, running concessions. The last ten days she has put in fifty to sixty hours in ten days working to get this up and running. They have been asking volunteers nationwide (?). That is not something that is necessarily feasible. She thinks that is what drive a lot of it. The cost of background checks and getting the coaches into the NAYS, along with all the other things, plus the tax filings, plus the coaches trainings, plus the sun-up to sundown phone calls that their volunteers have been taking care of. That is a lot to ask anybody to take on. The goal in all of this is to maintain volunteers but make the volunteer roles more manageable so the individuals (?). While the board may be dissolving, the league, as a City of Whitehall baseball and softball league will continue to run. They opened on Friday and as of today; they have thirty-seven people at least in the process of registration. That is more than they would have in the first three or four weeks. It takes a lot to support these leagues, not just here but everywhere so to be able to continue to ensure the quality that Bob, Pam and Mark built is further built upon. They feel it is time to transition.

Chairperson Dixon said what Director Sorrell is saying is essentially the winds are upon us; the way it was always done is community based with the citizens being involved and doing things. It is not the same anymore. Things have changed so now the cities or municipalities are beginning to address that and trying to do something about this and make it viable for the current times.

Director Sorrell said yes sir.

Chairperson Kantor said most do not know this but at one time, the league was ran by the city. Then came the time for the city to release it and it went to all the different organizations. He thanked everyone for the work that they put into the league.

Chairperson Dixon said as a child of Whitehall sports himself that he wanted to express his thankfulness to Pam, Mark and Bob. They are what made this city what it was. Growing up he had all the same things they have talked about. There was so much more volunteerism and it was really just a great place to live.

Councilperson Heck thanked Pam and Mark, along with Shannon for all the hard work and she looks forward to having her son play this year.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Heck closed at 6:42 p.m.

#### ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Councilperson Bailey opened at 6:43 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was no discussion in Administration and Financial Management.

Having no further business, Councilperson Bailey closed at 6:43 p.m.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Chairperson Smith opened at 6:43 p.m. and addressed the legislation in her committee, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 009-2022 DRAFT # 1

AMENDING SECTION 933.11 TITLED "STORAGE OF GARBAGE AND OTHER REFUSE" OF THE STREETS AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff said a couple weeks ago the Code Enforcement Officers were called out to an area of Whitehall because a resident wanted them to speak to a neighbor about where their trashcans were being stored, which was alongside of the house. The current code requires all trashcans/carts to be stored behind the house, behind the back property line. When the Code Enforcement Officers went over to the resident of who the complaint was made, to educate this gentleman, he was able from his front yard point out other homes where this was similarly occurring. The Officers then did a wide canvassing of the area and sent notice of violations to a number of residents who were in violation of this code. This caused his team to come together and have a staff meeting to evaluate this particular section of the code. This is not a section of the code his team routinely enforces, unless there is a complaint that comes forward. Therefore, when they evaluated how often they are enforcing this and had a conversation about the purpose of this section of the code. Prior to the city's conversion, to uniform trash carts there was a greater need for them to have a uniform, in the rear of your property because residents were not required to store their trash in certain ways or use whatever can they wanted. As we evaluated this section of the code, 933.11, and looked at with the new standardized carts, it made a lot more sense for them to relax this section of the code. As you can see, in Section (j) there is a bit of a typo, what is being proposing is allowing residents to be able to store their trash/recycling bins behind the front building line which will allow for storage on the side of the house. The second sentence is where they got a little too excited with the strike out. It currently reads "No debris, refuse, trash or garbage cans shall be kept in the front of or" and struck out "at the side of any residential unit". They did not mean to strike out "any residential unit". That sentence should read, "No debris, refuse, trash or garbage cans shall be kept in the front of any residential unit". He has informed Julie, she has corrected the official draft for Council, and you will see that in subsequent meetings. This was the city becoming aware of the issue by a resident on Monday at 7:30 pm, they met on Tuesday at 9:30 am and they had draft legislation at on the same day based on those conversations. Their thought is that this an appropriate update to the current code, given the update with the new trash/recycle cart program.

Chairperson Bailey asked if the four days of unlimited trash pick-up include the weeks of spring cleanup.

City Administrator Woodruff said one of the unlimited days is during that spring cleanup week.

Chairperson Bailey said just for one day.

City Administrator Woodruff said it was for one day before.

Chairperson Bailey said was looking at the last sentence of (h) and wondering if that needs to be changed to include the four days and be more specific to include spring cleanup. He said to President Potter that he does agree with the department analysis for the change due to the fact that these new carts do make a big difference and he is speaking in terms of his neighborhood because there have been some trashcan wars or trash placement discussions. Now that the new cans are in place, they still have litter but those in his court pick it up.

City Administrator Woodruff said what he would recommend is, in (h) the last sentence be modified to say, "The only exception to this is on designated unlimited days." He asked Julie to update the legislation to reflect this change.

*(Comm. Stand. & Enf. – 3rd reading – ADOPT 04/19/2022- Smith/Kantor)*

Having nothing further, Chairperson Smith closed at 6:51 p.m.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY

Chairperson Dixon opened at 6:52 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Chairperson Dixon said he went past Woodcliff and he noticed the tree felling and it prompted a couple of thoughts for him. He knows that the citizens and he included are upset when they see old trees down and he knew they would not all stand. Is there a percentage of tree that will be coming down or saving some of the trees?

City Administrator Woodruff said as it relates to the trees, the trees that are coming down now are only the trees that are part of phase one or are where roads are going to be built as part of the development. They have worked with the Parks Department and they had ODNR come out to do a tree survey. As you know, just because a tree is of a certain age does not mean that it is in good health. He does not have a percentage but what he will say is specifically for phase one, there were very few trees that are identified by ODNR or by the landscape architect that are really in a good place to be saved or be able to survive the construction.

There was continued discussion by Council and City Administrator Woodruff on the city's policy on trees, saving them and removal of older trees. There was discussion on what the policy on the structures and recycling at the Woodcliff demolition project are, and the condition of the structures and how the demolition will take place because of the asbestos in the buildings.

Having no further business, Chairperson Dixon closed at 7:06 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson Kantor opened at 7:07 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was no discussion in Economic Development.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Kantor closed at 7:07 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

Chairperson Conison opened at 7:07 p.m. and addressed the legislation in her committee, as follows:

**SECOND READING:**

RESOLUTION NO. 011-2022 (*Infra. Maint. & Srvs – 3rd reading – ADOPT 04/05/2022- Conison/Kantor*)

DESIGNATING A PORTION OF VARIOUS PARCELS ALONG BROAD STREET AND HAMILTON ROAD AS CITY OF WHITEHALL PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY RIGHT-OF-WAY, AS SHOWN AND DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT AND LABELED AS WD'S AND T'S.

City Administrator Woodruff said all of Council is aware of the Broad and Hamilton intersection improvement project is funded through various entities such as ODOT and others. That intersection will be widened at different points so there is right-of-way both in a permanent warranty deed (WD) that are necessary and temporary easements (T). Even though the city owns all of the Woodcliff property, ODOT requires that the pieces be officially designated right-of-ways through WD or the T right-of-way. ODOT has hired a consultant on the city's behalf to do the right-of-way acquisition for the WD and T for the other property owners around the project that are to be impacted. This is just a housekeeping item. The plans Council has were created by EMH&T for this project and has a direct contract with ODOT.

There were no questions for Mr. Woodruff at this time.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Conison closed at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairperson Bailey opened at 7:10 p.m. and addressed the legislation in her committee, as follows:

**SECOND READING:**

ORDINANCE NO. 007-2022 (*Comm. Stand. & Enf. – 3rd reading – ADOPT 04/05/2022- Elmore/Dixon*)  
VOIDING AND RESCINDING CHAPTER 707 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY  
OF WHITEHALL TITLED “AMUSEMENT DEVICES”.

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2022 (*Comm. Of the Whole – 3rd reading – ADOPT 04/05/2022-Elmore/Bailey*)  
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES  
TITLED” FRINGE BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT”, 161.24(B).

Having nothing further, Chairperson Bailey closed at 7:11 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council