

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter called the June 20, 2023 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Chairperson Kantor.

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

Auditor Quincel explained Ordinance 042-2023 and the reason it is needed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: July 5, 2023

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President

## WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES – June 20, 2023

President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 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:

Robert Bailey  
Gerald Dixon  
Lori Elmore  
Karen Conison  
Jo Anna Heck  
Amy Smith

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the June 6, 2023 agenda and regular meeting minutes and the June 13, 2023 committee meeting minutes. Ms. Heck 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:

Patrick Losinski, Columbus Metropolitan Library CEO and Lauren Lancaster, Whitehall Library Branch Manager gave a presentation on the library updates and information about programming and services at the Whitehall Branch.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

P. R. Casey, Deputy Chief of General Counsel Outreach for Franklin County Auditor Mike Stinziano's office shared information about the 2023 property reappraisal and other programs the Auditor's Office administers.

### POLL PUBLIC:

David Hout, 5000 Dimson Drive N., Whitehall, OH spoke on taxes, checks and how the government has forgotten what those taxes are to be used. At some point, people have forgotten how to fight for their rights and just decided to move. A while back, the City hired a company to poll the people to see if they were doing a great job. There was \$30,000.00 spent on social media and he is not sure what that was for. Facebook and YouTube are free or you can walk outside and ask anyone for their opinion. Ask yourself, are you adhering to the checks and balances. Where is the money being spent? Is it for you or the quality of life for every citizen of Whitehall? If you answer those questions, you will have your answer. Under Federal law, it is the right of every citizen to talk directly to the local, state and federal politicians. He has gotten responses back from Senator Sherrod Brown without getting the run around. He has asked for direct meetings with most of everyone there. He has gotten many excuses as to why the city cannot give the citizens what they want. Most have ignored my attempts at contact and he has been told by the front office that he is not allowed to speak to anyone. Last week was the first time he has seen anyone fight for the citizens. When you fight, you do what is right for the people.

## 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 the committee 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 the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – Chairperson Conison 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.

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services – Chairperson Conison reported that the committee 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 the committee 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 the committee 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 today was the first Farmers Market of the year. Auditor Quincel advised her that their homegrown honey farm here in Whitehall. A man who lives on Maplewood has hives and sells his honey at the market. She is looking forward to getting some next week. The fireworks are July 3 at Whitehall Yearling football field; tickets are needed for this event, July 4 is the parade at 10:00 am. On July 18 at the City Council meeting, there are plans for the Youth Police Academy present and she knows Chief Crispen is looking forward to it. National Night Out is August 1 at John Bishop Park. Watch for these items on our social media pages. She enjoyed the Columbus Metropolitan Library presentation and if you have never been to the Whitehall branch, you should go. She appreciates the representative from the Auditor's office for explaining in a way they can understand how their tax rates are going to be calculated.

City Administrator Zach Woodruff – was not present.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – he wanted to publically thank the Park and Recreation Director Shannon Sorrell, Superintendent Sheree Wells, Councilperson Lori Elmore and Treasurer Shaquille Alexander for being on the planning and host committee for Whitehall's First Annual Juneteenth celebration that occurred on Saturday. It was a fantastic event, well attended and the spirit was amazing. It was the first time in Whitehall's history and they certainly can never compare to Gallipolis that has the longest running Freedom Day Celebration from 1862 but maybe in the next one hundred years, Whitehall will be able to say that they have embraced Americas second Independence Day, which is Juneteenth and that they continue the celebration. They cannot change history or the past but what they do in the future to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion defines a community. He was fortunate enough to go to ETTS's First Annual World Refugee Day down at the Ohio State House. Our city is trailblazing with respect to putting their stake in the ground to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion and he is proud to be a citizen of this great city.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – he had no official report. He asked for favorable consideration on Ordinances 042-2023.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present.

Treasurer Shaquille Alexander– he gave a financial report for the month of May 2023. He echoed Auditor Quincel's request for favorable consideration on Ordinances 042-2023 and City Attorney Bivens' gratitude for the

inaugural Juneteenth Celebration and everyone who helped make it happen. The African American Male Wellness Walk is August 12. The twentieth anniversary of that walk, men come out and get your screenings. It does make a difference by lowering your risks and you can participate in the 5k Walk and Run. He is looking forward to competing against Attorney Bivens.

President Potter – advised that the following reports have been filed in the Council office since the last meeting: The Mayors Report to Council for May 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Agenda for the June 12, 2023 BZBA meeting.

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 was no legislation for Third Reading.

SECOND READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 020-2023 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.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 040-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT A GRANT FROM, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY OF CENTRAL OHIO'S PUBLIC EVENT EQUIPMENT GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EVENT RECYLING AND SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 040-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 040-2023 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Ordinance No. 040-2023 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 040-2023 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 041-2023 was read by title only by President Potter:

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING [FRANCHISE] TO OHIO POWER COMPANY , ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE RIGHT TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE IN THE STREETS, THOROUGHFARES, ALLEYS, BRIDGES, AND PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, STATE OF OHIO, AND ITS SUCCESSORS, LINES FOR THE [TRANSMISSION AND] DISTRIBUTION OF

ELECTRIC ENERGY TO THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, AND THE INHABITANTS THEREOF FOR LIGHT, HEAT, POWER, AND OTHER PURPOSES, AND FOR THE TRANSMISSION [AND DISTRIBUTION] OF THE SAME WITHIN, THROUGH, OR ACROSS SAID CITY OF WHITEHALL, STATE OF OHIO.

ORDINANCE NO. 042-2023 was read by title only by *President Potter*:

MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE COMP TIME BUYBACK ACCOUNT (101-900-51280) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 042-2023 and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 042-2023 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Ordinance No. 042-2023 and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 042-2023 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 023-2023 was read by title only by *President Potter*:

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN STRUCTUREPOINT, INC SAFE BUILT FOR PLAN REVIEW AND INSPECTION SERVICES.

RESOLUTION NO. 024-2023 was read by title only by *President Potter*:

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH COMPANY ETHIOPIAN TEWAHEDO SOCIAL SERVICES TO LOCATE AT 4300 EAST BROAD STREET.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

Councilperson Conison said that Saturday, June 24 at Etna Elementary some very brave children are going to walk the stage for WCCA's Ambassador Event. The Baby Pageant will be at 10:00 a.m. and the others will be starting at 11:00 a.m.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Bailey thanked Lauren and Pat for coming in and giving them an update and interesting facts on CML but he would really like to thank them for their good work they do for the community. He thanked Mr. Casey for giving them a heads-up on what is coming out of the Franklin County Auditors Office. He thanked everyone watching from home and those who in attendance.

Chairperson Dixon thanked everyone watching from home and those in attendance. He thanked Mr. Losinski and Ms. Lancaster for their presentation. He thanked Mr. Casey for his thorough explanation and he thanked Mr. Hout for offering up his comments. He shared a piece of information he had gotten from Time magazine. This is for those that think gay pride is celebratory and there is not necessarily a danger, the way it used to be. It is always a threat and that is what people have to fight against, simply for being yourself. They signed anti-gay legislation into law in Uganda on May 29 making aggravated homosexuality punishable by death.

Chairperson Elmore thanked all the viewers and those who presented tonight. They did give them a wealth of information and added to what they knew about the library. It is state of the art and one of the best libraries she has been. She wanted to thank to Auditors office for putting that information out and she is not sure how happy people are going to be. She thanked David Hout for his information and having the courage to speak. She feels the city has the best logo “Opportunity is Here” because they are putting their money where their mouth is with economic development and programming. Anything that can be visualized they are bringing it forward. She thanked the planning committee of Juneteenth for a fantastic event just like the Martin Luther King program. There was variety and the music was great. Everyone had a good and peaceful time.

Chairperson Conison thanked everyone for watching from home and Michole for coming. There was great information given tonight and she was writing it down because she did not realize you could use your library card for LinkedIn Learning and she will be using it. She is sure there are management and development courses on there. She has been told that you can use your library card at some of the swimming pools.

Chairperson Heck thanked everyone for watching from home and those who attended in person. She thanked the three people who spoke tonight during the presentations. There was much information. She thanked Mr. Hout for his poll public.

Chairperson Smith thanked everyone watching from home and those who in attendance. Since being on Council she thought she knew a lot about what the city had to offer but she is constantly learning more and is amazed at what is out there that she did not know existed. It is wonderful to hear it and that it is out there as a resource for residents.

President Potter echoed what has been shared by his fellow Councilmembers tonight but he does appreciate the presentations tonight. He appreciates the folks who came forward tonight and those watching from home.

Having nothing further, Mr. Bailey 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 8:13p.m.

Submitted by,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: July 5, 2023

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President