

WHITEHALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MINUTES – July 13, 2021

Council President Potter called the July 13, 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
City Attorney Michael Bivens
City Auditor Dan Miller
Police Chief Mike Crispin
P & R Director Shannon Sorrell

Council Members

Chris Rodriguez
Wes Kantor
Larry Morrison
Bob Bailey
Jo Anna Heck
Karen Conison

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Chief of Police Mike Crispin introduced the students and said to Council that these are tomorrow's leaders. He then turned the presentation over to Sargent Earl and Officer Showalter.

Sargent Earl said the both of the School Resource Officers, Tanner Williams and Mark Showalter put this program together. Seven attendees went through the ten week Youth Police Academy Program. These students dedicated the first part of their summer to the program.

Officer Showalter said these young adults went through a two week academy being trained by members of the Whitehall Police Community Operations Bureau, Whitehall S.W.A.T. Team, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, FBI, DEA, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the United States Marine Corp. He introduced each participant.

Council congratulated the students with a round of applause.

The students answered questions from Council at this time.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

President Potter moved Draft # 1 Ordinance 061-2021 into Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Councilperson Bailey opened at 6:55 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 062-2021 DRAFT # 2

AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE WATER UTILITY FUND (841), APPROPRIATING TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WATER UTILITY FUND (841) TO THE WATER UTILITY EXPENSE ACCOUNT (841.000.50000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Chairperson Bailey said it was for the payment of the costs, operation, maintenance, construction, reconstruction, replacement and enlargement of the water distribution system within the City of Whitehall.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 3rd reading – ADOPT 08/17/2021–Bailey/Conison)

ORDINANCE NO. 063-2021 DRAFT # 3

AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE SEWER UTILITY FUND (840), APPROPRIATING TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE SEWER UTILITY FUND (840) TO THE SEWER UTILITY EXPENSE ACCOUNT (840.000.50000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Chairperson Bailey said it was for the payment of the costs, operation, maintenance, construction, reconstruction, replacement and enlargement of the sanitary sewer distribution system within the City of Whitehall.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 3rd reading – ADOPT 08/17/2021–Bailey/Morrison)

ORDINANCE NO. 064-2021 DRAFT # 4

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND AND NO DOLLARS (\$28,000.00) FROM APPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE 101.700.51500 STAFF PT EXPENSE ACCOUNT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT EXPENSE ACCOUNT 101.700.51550 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Chairperson Bailey said he believed everyone saw the email explaining what these funds were to be used for.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021–Bailey/Kantor)

ORDINANCE NO. 065-2021 DRAFT # 5

APPROVING AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000.00) FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND (550) TO VARIOUS EXPENSE ACCOUNTS IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Chairperson Bailey said this would create expense accounts to help the citizens who experienced flooding to help offset the cost of sump pump installations.

Deputy Director for Public Affairs Megan Meyer said that they have found a larger percentage of homes in the Homeowner Flooding Mitigation program had to have a sump pump installed. Installing a sump pump can be quite costly so I came to Council and asked if you would allow us to go back to those specific homeowners who indicated they could not afford the cost, to offer them a grant extension to help them with the cost. The appropriation in this draft legislation is to support that. The cost to each homeowner is about twenty-four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) and we proposed to pay about half of the cost. At that time, twenty-nine of the homes were still eligible to participate in the program and there would be no additional cost above thirty-three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$33,750.00) to make that work. They went back to those homeowners and gave them a couple of weeks to come up with those funds and so thirteen of the twenty-nine homeowners indicated they wanted to stay in the program. Unfortunately, there was a larger withdraw rate indicating that was beyond what they were financially able to support. Others had some odd reasons why they could not take advantage of the program such as they did not like the location the sump pump would be installed or there was additional work they did not want to pursue, people had illegal restrooms and things like that. This is the status update that they have kind of committed themselves to with this draft legislation included. There was an initial appropriation of two hundred fifty three thousand dollars and some change with two hundred thousand dollars coming from the City of Whitehall and fifty three thousand coming from the resident's side of it. Now, with this there would be up to two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000.00) coming from the City and about seventy three thousand (\$73,000.00) coming from the residents. They anticipate no more than one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000.00) coming from the City in total with about sixty one thousand

(\$61,000.00) coming from residents. There are some people on the list that she would like to consider moving forward in the coming weeks if she can make contact with them.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021–Bailey/Rodriguez)

ORDINANCE NO. 066-2021 DRAFT # 6

MAKING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE STREET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FUND (201); MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) FROM THE STREET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FUND (201) TO THE SIGNALS/SIGNS EXPENSE ACCCOUNT (201.000.53500) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Chairperson Bailey said the City has received reimbursements from various insurance companies for prior accidents, which caused damage to our existing signs and signals, and there is a need for additional funds to finance the repairs through 2021.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021–Bailey/Heck)

ORDINANCE NO. 067-2021 DRAFT # 7

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) FROM THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE FIRE HYDRANTS EXPENSE ACCCOUNT (101.000.53600) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021–Bailey/Morrison)

RESOLUTION NO. 018-2021 DRAFT # 8

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

Auditor Dan Miller said this is for interconnectivity for the county.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021–Bailey/Conison)

Having no further business, Councilperson Bailey closed at 6:55 p.m.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Chairperson Rodriguez opened at 7:21 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 055-2021 *(Comm. Standard & Enf. – 3rd reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021– Rodriguez/Kantor)*
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN CODE VIOLATIONS AS PAYABLE CITATIONS NOT REQUIRING A PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT COURT.

SECOND READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 017-2021 *(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 2nd reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021–Rodriguez/Kantor)*
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.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Rodriguez closed at 7:21 p.m.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY

Chairperson Bailey opened at 7:21 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was discussion concerning the Senior Center.

Having no further business, Chairperson Bailey closed at 7:22 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson Morrison opened at 7:22 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO.056-2021 (*Economic Dev – 3rd reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021– Morrison/Heck*)
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 049-2011 TO UPDATE THE TAX EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE EAST BROAD STREET DISTRICT COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA.

ORDINANCE NO.057-2021 (*Economic Dev – 3rd reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021– Morrison/Conison*)
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 051-2011 TO UPDATE THE TAX EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE MAIN STREET EAST COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA.

ORDINANCE NO.058-2021 (*Economic Dev – 3rd reading – ADOPT 07/20/2021– Morrison/Elmore*)
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 048-2011 TO UPDATE THE TAX EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE TOWNE SQUARE DISTRICT COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Morrison closed at 7:23 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

Chairperson Heck opened at 7:24p.m. and addressed the legislation in her committee, as follows:

President Potter moved Draft # 1 Ordinance 061-2021 into Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services.

ORDINANCE NO. 061-2021 DRAFT # 1
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 913, SANITARY REGULATIONS, AS CONTAINED IN TITLE ONE, STREETS AND UTILITIES, OF PART NINE, STREETS AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO, BY CREATING SEWER AND WATER SURCHARGES FOR THE USERS OF EACH UTILITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Deputy Director for Public Affairs Megan Meyer said she appreciates Council's attention to the matter as previously presented. The date of this reading has been pushed back a bit. There will be a type of in person town hall meeting to discuss the aspects of this on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 6:30 pm at City Hall. Director Woodruff, a representative from EMH&T along with herself will attend to help answer the public's questions and it will be held virtually for those who are not yet comfortable with coming in. She plans to come back to Council on August 10 to give them an update on the meeting.

Deputy Director for Public Affairs Megan Meyer answered questions from Council at this time. She said that This Week Whitehall is going to be ending and will not be merging with other newspapers and will be actually going away. There was discussion on how to get the information to all seniors because not everyone has a computer.

(Inf. Maint. & Serv. – 3rd reading – ADOPT 08/17/2021–Heck/Morrison)

Having nothing further, Chairperson Heck closed at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairperson Conison opened at 7:30 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was discussion on the presentation given by Officer Showalter earlier in the meeting.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Conison closed at 7:32 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Chairperson Kantor opened at 6:55 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Director Shannon Sorrell thanked Council for their consideration of filling the vacant position they currently have. The position was left vacant when Shannon Warner was promoted to Recreation Superintendent. They have built off the Teen Employment Programs that works along with Officer Showalter's program, which will be kicking off in the fall. The Outdoor Education programs are built into the kindergarten, first grade and fifth grade classrooms, which will be expanding this coming year. The Farmer's Market is fourteen weeks of dedicated programming. She will be having conversations with Ms. Conison about joint programming with WCCA with that and some other things. They are updating programs at the YMCA for members and the public alike. They will be discussing fall programming at Kelly Green and the opening of the Dog Park. When you think about what the department looks like now versus four or five years ago, it is a world of difference. They really have not grown staffing wise and they have reached a point where she feels this is a need. She had a discussion with Mayor Maggard last week about moving forward. There is an immediate need to fill this full-time administrative position. She thanked Council for being willing to support and seeing the need their team has for this position.

Director Sorrell answered questions from Council at this time.

Director Sorrell gave an update on the Senior Center. The center has been painted, floors cleaned and they are in the process of organizing it because for the past twenty years it has been used exclusively used by a private club. The goal was to create a center that was usable by the club as well as the public. In doing so, many of the personal items needed removed from the building and this process has not been smooth and has been very difficult for the club and for our team. The goal is not to run the club but to have the club run independently and to help coordinate the use of the building. They do not have the staffing ability to run the fifty-eight hours of the center. The programmer is budgeted for twenty-eight hours per week. She is currently await a schedule from the senior board and she is hoping to have it before she leaves on Friday for vacation. The programmer is working to schedule four or five activities a week at the center. Not everyone is happy but they are trying to move forward and get the August calendar this week.

Director Sorrell answered questions from Council at this time.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council