

CITY OF WHITEHALL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
February 24, 2015

PRESENT: Cabala, Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Smith, and Whalen

ABSENT: Bartholomew and Hatch

ALSO PRESENT: Student Representative Mikkelson, City Attorney Sweeting, City Clerk Bourdon, City Manager Huebler, and Police Chief Squiers

Mayor Pro Tem Whalen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the amended agenda. All ayes.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Smith, CARRIED, to approve the February 10 meeting minutes. All ayes.

#### APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Smith, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the account payables in the amount of \$141,980.72 and checks be drawn in their several amounts. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Smith, Cabala, Holmstrom, Sikkenga and Whalen; No: None; Absent: Bartholomew and Hatch.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Central Dispatch Minutes, Downtown Advisory Minutes, Friends of the Playhouse Minutes, MAF Minutes, MLGMA Information Report, Planning Commission Minutes, Senior Center Director's Report, Solid Waste Audit, West Michigan Trails

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, that the communications be received and placed on file. All ayes.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Salter, 120 N. Livingston, passed on a comment that he received from a resident who commented that Montague does a fine job of keeping their downtown clear of snow; why can't Whitehall?

## MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR PRO TEM, COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

Council member Cabala requested that a reminder go into the next newsletter regarding the community wide garage sale. She reported that the Solid Waste group is having a special meeting on Thursday to discuss budgeting for improvements for the transfer station. On March 25, there will be a recycling seminar sponsored by the Sustainability Network for small businesses. She also requested to be excused from the March 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to excuse Cabala from the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. All ayes.

Student representative Mikkelson reported that the girls' varsity team beat Montague and the High school band concert will be Wednesday night at 7 pm in the auditorium.

Council member Smith commented about the complaints received regarding food truck parking even though the minutes from the downtown advisory stated that there were no complaints. City Manager Huebler explained that no complaints were received by the Downtown Advisory group, while the city is aware of the complaints.

Council member Holmstrom commented, in regards to comments made at the last council meeting, that with a stump removed on Sophia it would make it feasible for snowmobilers to use that side of the road.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Conservation District – Hekkema Property

Jeff Auch from the Conservation District briefed the group on the White River Agricultural Wetland Acquisition. The Conservation District has finalized a sales agreement with the current land owner (Hekkema) and is requesting from the council the approval for the City Manager or City Clerk to have authority to accept the transfer of property to the City. As part of the transfer, the Conservation District would manage and maintain the property. He also reported that the conservation District will pay

for the survey and appraisal for the conservation easement and is currently working with a firm to develop a restoration plan for the site. Motion by Smith, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the City Manager or City Clerk to have the authority to accept the transfer of property to the City. All ayes.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 15-02 – White River Twp Land Trust Fund Grant

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Smith, CARRIED, to support White River Township in their efforts to obtain a Michigan Natural Resource Land Trust Fund Grant.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Cabala, Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Smith and Whalen;  
No: None; Absent: Bartholomew and Hatch.

B. Resolution 15-03 – Poverty Exemption

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the poverty exemption policies and guidelines for the City of Whitehall which cover the requirements of Public Act 390.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Smith, Cabala and Whalen;  
No: None; Absent: Bartholomew and Hatch.

C. Resolution 15-04 – Residents Right to Protest

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Smith, CARRIED, to resolve the Board of Review to permit both residents and non-resident taxpayers to protest to the Board of Review in writing, without the necessity of personal appearance by the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative, provided such written protest is received on or before the second Tuesday in March of the tax year at issue.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Sikkenga, Smith, Cabala, Holmstrom and Whalen;  
No: None; Absent: Bartholomew and Hatch.

D. Resolution 15-05 – Playhouse Liquor Sales

Motion by Smith, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the request to sell alcohol by the Friends of the Playhouse for fundraising events on March 14, 2015 and April 4, 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Smith, Cabala, Holmstrom, Sikkenga and Whalen;  
No: None; Absent: Bartholomew and Hatch.

E. Resolution 15-06 – Parks & Recreation Plan

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to adopt the 2015 City of Whitehall Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the City of Whitehall.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Cabala, Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Smith and Whalen;  
No: None; Absent: Bartholomew and Hatch.

F. Killer Blues Liquor Sales Request

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the request to sell alcohol by Killer Blues for the Killer Blues Headstone Project at a fundraising event, featuring local band, The Edukators, on March 7, 2015. All ayes.

G. Resolution 15-07 – Fetch Brewing Outdoor Seating

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Cabala, CARRIED, to approve the use of parking spaces adjacent to Fetch Brewing for outdoor seating and for the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages from May 1 to November 1 each year through 2016. The City resolves the right to revoke this permit at any time without notice in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and guests of the city and that such revocation shall be made in the sole determination of the City Manager in consultation with the Police Department and Department of Public Works.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Smith, Cabala and Whalen;  
No: None; Absent: Bartholomew and Hatch.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Smith, supported by Holmstrom that the Council meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m. All ayes.

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Edward Whalen, Mayor Pro Tem

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Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk