

CITY OF WHITEHALL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2015

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

ABSENT: Holmstrom and Hatch

ALSO PRESENT: Student Representative Mikkelson, Student Representative Bishop, City Attorney Sweeting, City Clerk Bourdon, City Manager Huebler, Police Chief Squiers, Treasurer Audo, and Deputy Treasurer/Clerk Sandel

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to approve the February 24 meeting minutes. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Smith, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to approve the account payables in the amount of \$304,286.82 and checks be drawn in their several amounts. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Bartholomew, Smith, Cabala, Sikkenga and Whalen; No: None; Absent: Holmstrom and Hatch.

COMMUNICATIONS

MAISD Accountability Report, Wastewater Minutes

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR PRO TEM, COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

A. Sandra Sandel Retirement Recognition

Mayor Pro Tem Whalen acknowledged the retirement of Deputy Treasurer/Clerk Sandra Sandel after 34 years of dedicated service. Whalen presented an earring/necklace set to Sande, recapped her journey through the 34 years, and expressed gratitude for her service.

City Manager Huebler passed on warm wishes from the Mayor who will be back soon. He also reported on the water service issues: twenty five frozen water lines, sixteen in the meter pits – 5 on our side and 4 on the customer side. We have one frozen main on Collier that only affected one home and two that are sharing water with neighbors.

City Manager Huebler also reported that the County Road Commission will be removing snow downtown on Tuesday.

Council member Smith commended the DPW on their work even though he has had to replace his mailbox seven times.

Student representative Mikkelson reported that the Band received 1st division ratings at Festival on Thursday.

Council member Cabala reported that at 8:30 on Wednesday, March 25th, there will be a recycling seminar sponsored by the Sustainability Network for small businesses. She also reported that Solid Waste had a special meeting for budgeting for improvements for the transfer station and the county is moving forward to get money from the State. She also reported that the minutes from the February 17th Tannery update meeting will be sent when they are finalized. She addressed Council member Bartholomew's earlier question regarding cleanup by confirming that the developer is responsible for the cleanup of 1,000 tons of leather along the shoreline and Genesco is on the hook to transport and dispose of it. Council member Bartholomew responded that he doesn't want Planning Commission or Council to give blessings until it is cleaned up. Council member Cabala also reported that the due care plan was received by the DEQ.

Student representative Bishop reported that Whitehall High School is hosting the Pancake Breakfast and Business Expo on Saturday.

Council member Sikkenga passed on a comment from a resident regarding a cone to warn of a big hole on Warner Street. Because it was on a hill, the resident didn't have enough warning. A cone on Alice Street was also discussed. City Manager Huebler will discuss with DPW Director Armstrong. Council member Sikkenga also asked the status of the two townships that have not paid the Ambulance Authority and wanted to know if the problems had been addressed that prevented them from paying. City Manager Huebler reported that the issue was addressed. The Finance committee provided documentation supporting the deficit which was provided to them. Huebler didn't know if Fruitland has discussed it, but their position has been to withhold payment because they had to institute the lawsuit that brought us to where we are today. Blue Lake Township's Clerk, who is a CPA, is not convinced that there was a deficit and he has apparently convinced the board to not vote for it. It was discussed at the last Ambulance Board meeting as to what their options are; one option is to expel them, but they are still responsible for all debt known at that time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 15-08 – Proposal 1

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Smith, CARRIED, to support Proposal 1 which would raise \$1.3B in new revenues for roads, bridges, and transportation. The proposal would result in a 66% increase (\$173,000) in street funds for Whitehall by the third year and a \$26,000 (12%) bump in revenue sharing next fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Smith, Cabala, Bartholomew, and Whalen; No: Sikkenga; Absent: Holmstrom and Hatch.

B. Staffing

Motion by Smith, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to adopt the attached revised Administrative Assistant position description with a beginning pay scale of \$9.30 to \$11.62 per hour and authorize staff to commence filling the position.

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

C. Hokey Pokey Sales

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to approve Hokey Pokey Alley Sales on May 2nd, July 11th, and October 3rd from 8 am – 6 pm. All ayes.

D. Playhouse Grant Application

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the Howmet Playhouse's application for grant funding from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for financial support for the In Our Backyard Series for Spring 2015.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bartholomew, supported by Smith that the Council meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. All ayes.

Edward Whalen, Mayor Pro Tem

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk