

CITY OF WHITEHALL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2015

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

ABSENT: Holmstrom

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

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

Motion by Whalen, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to excuse Council Member Holmstrom from tonight's meeting and the May 26th meeting. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hatch opened the Alcoa tax abatement public hearing at 7:32 pm. City Manager Huebler provided background information on the Alcoa tax abatement and announced that Amy Heisser from Alcoa was here to answer any questions. There were no questions. Public hearing was closed at 7:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Whalen, CARRIED, to approve the April 28 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 \$154,194.63 and checks be drawn in their several amounts. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Bartholomew, Smith, Whalen, Cabala, Sikkenga and Hatch; No – None; Absent – Holmstrom.

COMMUNICATIONS

Brownfield, Downtown Advisory, Friends of the Playhouse, Muskegon Area First, Senior Center, Solid Waste, Township Water, and West Michigan Shoreline

Council Member Sikkenga and Council Member Cabala both shared concerns that Muskegon Area First is solely focused on Muskegon and wondered if we get support. City Manager Huebler commented that when asked, they do provide support.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dahlstrom from Montague, whose father was once on council, expressed his appreciation for all the hard work that the PAC has done with White Lake and shared his concern about White Lake being left “holding the bag” without any more funding as a result of the delisting. He commented that more work needs to be done.

Isaac VonDouche of Whitehall commented that as he walks down by the tannery area there is a lot of garbage, railroad ties, fences and a building partially in the water and expressed that something should be done.

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

City Manager Huebler shared that there was ice damage on three docks at the marina which need repair. Seasonal customers have already been shuffled to other locations. Two companies were consulted and we are considering contracting with Morden Construction on an emergency basis, therefore bypassing the typical bid procedures. We have a bid for \$18,000, but because they are able to get a cheaper crane in before it's sent off on another job, it will be \$1,500 less.

Motion by Whalen seconded by Bartholomew to contract with Morden Construction to repair three concrete planks for costs not to exceed \$18,000 with funding coming from the Tax Increment Finance Authority. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Bartholomew, Smith, Whalen, Cabala, Sikkenga, and Hatch; No – None; Absent – Holmstrom.

Council Member Cabala expressed concerns about the difficulty in turning left on Colby Street from Warner Street. Police Chief Squiers commented that he can bring this to the attention of the State since it is a state highway. She also responded to the concerns of the delisting of White Lake. The committee worked under the Area of Concern program which had certain restrictions (not to clean up every molecule in White Lake). They did their best to work within that framework and when there was a choice to have stronger criteria than the state and federal agencies, they always made that choice. They had more meetings than any public committee and made sure that the community had every opportunity to participate. The group knows that they are not done and have been working diligently with strategic planning going forward.

Council Member Sikkenga thanked Tanya for all her hard work and for her comments this evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Utility Shutoff Policy – Student Assignment

City Manager Huebler explained that the student reps were given the assignment of assessing our utility shutoff policy asking for any recommendations. No action was taken on the recommendations, but it was suggested by Council Member Whalen to discuss it at the Budget Work session on May 19th.

B. Resolution 15-10 – Alcoa IFT

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Smith, CARRIED, to award an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Alcoa Power and Propulsion for real property in the amount of \$5,430,000 for twelve years. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Smith, Whalen, Cabala, Sikkenga, Bartholomew, and Hatch; No – None; Absent – Holmstrom.

C. Budget Work Session and Public Hearing

Motion by Whalen, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to schedule a special budget work session for May 19th at 5:30 pm and the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget for May 26, 2015 at 7:30 pm. All ayes.

D. 205 Franklin Street

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Smith, CARRIED, to reject the \$5,000 offer from River Rock Homes for both lots.

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

E. Slocum Street

Motion by Smith, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to approve funding of \$33,400 to add curbed, street side parking on Slocum Street.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Eisenbarth, Muskegon County Administrator, provided information on the Quality of Life which has a new focus with a broader audience.

Steve Salter, 120 N. Livingston, announced his candidacy for City Council and asked for Council's endorsement.

Council Member Smith added that we have council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month and Steve Salter has come to all of our meetings and at times is an audience of one.

Council Member Cabala requested that as we receive comments regarding the Tannery that they are forwarded to council as they are received.

Two students from Montague, Nick Gundy and Brian Upton, introduced themselves and requested signatures for class credit.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bartholomew, supported by Smith that the Council meeting be adjourned at 8:09 p.m. All ayes.

Emery M. Hatch, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

CITY OF WHITEHALL
BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 19, 2015

PRESENT: Bartholomew, Cabala, Hatch, Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Smith, Whalen

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Bourdon, City Manager Huebler, Police Chief Squiers, DPW Director Armstrong, Playhouse Manager Beaman, Treasurer Audo

Mayor Hatch called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

City Manager Huebler discussed each section of the budget providing highlights.

Police Chief Squiers provided an explanation of the issues with our website and the need for improvements.

Council Member Cabala explained the improvements needed at the transfer station.

City Manager Huebler explained that Fetch needs additional restrooms to meet code for the new outdoor seating. Options were discussed.

The water/sewer rate increases were discussed with the suggestion for staff to work on strategic planning to keep increases to a minimum.

Council Member Cabala and DPW Director Armstrong discussed companion recycling containers.

With no further business, Mayor Hatch adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Emery M. Hatch, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk