

CITY OF WHITEHALL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2015

PRESENT: Bartholomew, Cabala, Hatch, Holmstrom, Salter, and Sikkenga

ABSENT: Whalen

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Sweeting, City Manager Huebler, City Clerk Bourdon, and DPW Director Armstrong

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Salter, CARRIED, to approve the July 14 meeting minutes. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Salter, CARRIED, to approve the account payables in the amount of \$316,794.91 and checks be drawn in their several amounts.

Council Member Sikkenga asked about the \$10,848 to the City of Montague. City Manager Huebler responded that it was for the Solid Waste Transfer Station improvements – City of Montague acts as the fiduciary agent for the Transfer Station, the first payment of a two-year commitment. Sikkenga also asked about the actors' costs and are we making money. Huebler responded that these are on par with the going rates for actors and we anticipate the Playhouse making a profit.

Council Member Salter asked about the EJ USA line item for \$2,715.69. DPW Director confirmed that it was for a replacement water valve by Wesco.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Central Dispatch, MML Annual Meeting Notice, Senior Center and Director's Report, WMSRDC

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

Council Member Cabala reiterated that the contribution that the city made is part of the two-year plan. The Solid Waste Authority is looking for additional funding. Cabala announced that it was decided at the Solid Waste Authority's last meeting that the Transfer Station will no longer accept oils as of October 1st. She is working on a handout for alternative disposal options. She also reported that they learned a lot from their field trip to the Community Recycling Center in Muskegon. She asked City Manager Huebler for a Tannery Update. He reported that the waterfront grant is expiring in September. The State said that we could get one more extension if we provide a detailed schedule. Huebler will be contacting Mick McGraw to get that and the City will have a backup plan to submit waterfront projects if Mick misses a beat.

Cabala reported that the Environmental Network is in action. They will be presenting to the public on Lake Street highlighting green infrastructure. She also reported that the Phase III Committee met and looked at downtown improvements plans – she was very impressed with the designer.

Council Member Sikkenga wanted to revisit allowing chickens in the city. He reported other communities, such as Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, have recently passed ordinances. He asked how we can move forward. City Manager Huebler commented that the City Council has the right to amend ordinances. Council Member Bartholomew asked if we have had any requests. City Manager Huebler responded that we have not. Council Member Sikkenga would like staff to move forward with the request.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 15-04 Sewer & Water Fees and Services

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve Ordinance 15-04: Sewer & Water Fees and Services amending sections 52.36, 53.03, 54.05, 54.06, and 54.07 and approve the Shutoff Policy.

Council Member Salter asked about the rental deposit fee. Is that on the renter or landlord? City Manager Huebler confirmed that if the renter puts the water in their name, they are responsible for the deposit. By law, we cannot charge the property owner.

Council Member Cabala asked if this was a boiler plate policy. City Manager Huebler responded that information from surrounding municipalities was gathered and staff consulted to arrive at a fair policy both for the residents and the city.

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

B. Ordinance 15-05 Fire Code

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to approve Ordinance 15-05: Fire Code by repealing and replacing Chapter 93: Fire Prevention and adopting the International Fire Code, 2012 edition. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Cabala, Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Bartholomew, Salter and Hatch; No – None; Absent – Whalen.

C. Resolution 15-17: Truck Purchase

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the purchase of a 2010 Ram with 81,000 miles at a cost of \$10,225. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Cabala, Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Bartholomew, Salter, and Hatch; No – None; Absent – Whalen.

D. Resolution 15-18: Mower Bid

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to award the 2015 Mower Bid to J&J Farms for the low qualified bid of \$5,871.92. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Holmstrom, Sikkenga, Bartholomew, Salter, Cabala, and Hatch; No – None; Absent – Whalen.

E. Quality of Life Millage

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the three projects for submission for the Muskegon County Quality of Life Millage: Playhouse renovations, waterfront improvements per the Phase III plans, and new bathroom facilities for the little league baseball fields. All ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Holly Hughes, State Representative, recognized that roads are still an issue and are still a priority. She also reported on the activities that she has been involved with – Webster House, veteran bill for college credit, substitute teacher bill, and adverse possession bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bartholomew, supported by Holmstrom that the Council meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m. All ayes.

Emery M. Hatch, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk