

CITY OF WHITEHALL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2015

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

ABSENT: None

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

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 amended agenda. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Whalen, CARRIED, to approve the July 28 meeting minutes. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the account payables in the amount of \$391,162.26 and checks be drawn in their several amounts.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Ambulance Authority Minutes, Brownfield Quarterly Report, Friends of the Playhouse, Phase III, Single Waste Hauler (Norton Shores), White Lake Environmental Network

Council Member Cabala asked if the Friends Centennial committee had plans established yet. City Manager Huebler commented that they are in the exploratory stage.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

City Manager Huebler reported that he and representatives from Montague met with MATs bus service to discuss status. The numbers are not spectacular, but they are committed to a three year grant program. They will be looking at making adjustments to schedules and potentially different bus size for November implementation, which is their one year cycle.

Council Member Cabala asked when the waterfront project needs to be submitted. City Manager Huebler responded by mid-September. He is meeting with Mick McGraw and Bill Davison from Horizon Environmental tomorrow to request a specific time line by Friday. It will then be submitted to council for approval on August 25 to seek the grant extension. We will be submitting a supplemental plan to fall back on if Mick's plan is rejected.

Cabala requested that we educate more on coal-tar sealcoats using Facebook.

Council Member Whalen commented that traveling back from Seattle, he noticed many towns were having their summer festivals, much like we do, which was nice to see.

Council Member Bartholomew expressed concerns regarding the Ambulance financial condition. He commented that even with the additional millage, it won't be enough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. White Lake Area Marketing

Motion by Whalen, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve participation with the White Lake Area of Commerce's marketing effort by funding \$2,500 from the General Fund Other and \$2,500 from TIFA Other.

Council Member Cabala asked if we will have specific participation on this committee or at least on a focus group and expressed interest in participating. She also expressed disappointment in not moving forward with the economic developer to fill the downtown and would like us to revisit this decision.

Council Member Bartholomew clarified that the restricted funding for the economic developer wasn't just on the City; that it was primarily the Chamber. City Manager Huebler commented that the Chamber board felt that the branding and marketing was something they were planning for a while.

Council Member Cabala asked if that was something the city could explore on our own. Council Member Bartholomew added that he would prefer us to evaluate Muskegon Area First funding and assess that before moving forward.

Council member Sikkenga asked clarification on what the marketing was focused on: filling the downtown, or the business section or all. He commented that the business section hasn't grown much. City Manager Huebler commented that the effort is to focus on all and that many businesses look for a ready to move-in facility rather than building new.

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

B. Meeting Time

Motion by Whalen, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve changing the council meeting time to 6 pm effective August 25, 2015.

Council Member Cabala would like staff to collect feedback as it pertains to a change in attendance because of the different start time and adjust if necessary.

All ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debi Hillebrand, 324 S. Mears Ave., offered her support in the decision of the 6 pm council meeting start time as it's beneficial for all.

Council Member Holmstrom asked about the status of the street project. City Manager Huebler commented that underground should be done by Friday, and have blacktop by next Friday. Completion should be by the 29th. Our engineer has drafted a change order for signature.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bartholomew, supported by Holmstrom that the Council meeting be adjourned at 7:53 p.m. All ayes.

Emery M. Hatch, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk