

CITY OF WHITEHALL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2015

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

ABSENT: None

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

Mayor Hatch called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Whalen, CARRIED, to approve the August 11 meeting minutes. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the account payables in the amount of \$91,837.94 and checks be drawn in their several amounts.

Council Member Salter asked about the Derby Design web charge and asked if that was something they could review before it goes live. City Manager Huebler commented that he would pass that on to Chief. Salter also asked about the Sam's Club charges and commented the Council has gone on record to not support Walmart; we would be better served to support our local stores. The Mayor commented that our City Treasurer is managing supplies cost effectively.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Downtown Advisory, Friends of the Playhouse, MAF, and Wastewater

Motion by Whalen, seconded by Bartholomew, 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 provided an update on Slocum Street, reported that improper pouring of concrete created another delay, but blacktop would be done by Friday. Mayor Pro Tem Whalen requested more information on the concrete issues which City Manager Huebler provided. Council Member Salter asked about warranty on the work and City Manager Huebler commented that we hold a performance bond for a year for the work.

Council Member Bartholomew commented that we have Ash trees that are dying off and asked if someone was taking inventory of the bad trees. City Manager Huebler responded that Paul will be taking care of that.

Mayor Hatch announced that the Playhouse season was excellent and that Beth should be congratulated on the fantastic season.

Council Member Cabala commented that there are many Ash trees, Norway and Red maples and some small trees that are not surviving. She commented on the tire collection event noting that it was not well publicized and a low number (9,100 tires, a little less than half from before) were collected. She also asked about the waterfront plan for approval and the City Manager commented that he just received information from the state at 4:30 today and needs to review it. She asked what extensions were going to be allowed. Huebler responded that the Brownfield grant would allow a one year extension. The state was looking at a waterfront grant extension until December 31 of this year. They would consider a 6 month extension if some deadlines were met. Those final deadlines and parameters have not been received yet.

Council Member Sikkenga reported that a young Eagle was found injured and taken to the Raptor Center in Twin Lake where it was rehabilitated. It was released Thursday evening and he had the pleasure of seeing it reunited with its parents on Friday morning.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Manager's Contract

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Whalen, CARRIED, to approve the execution of the City Manager's contract.

Council Member Cabala commented that she is not crazy about a seven year contract. She does not want her comments to be taken as a lack of support for Scott; that is not the case. She doesn't, however, like the long contract because a new council may want to go in another direction. That's not as much as a concern as seeing how the salary has come about. She would appreciate receiving more information about salary ranges to help in making an objective decision. The information should be provided. Without it, the decision is more difficult to make. Cabala commented that she did research and found ranges from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

Council Member Bartholomew commented that he didn't have a problem finding salary information on other comparable communities and feels that they are in the ballpark. He also commented that he feels that if they have an individual who has done an outstanding job and they really want to keep him, it's in their favor to offer a seven year agreement; there are clauses in the contract that if they are not pleased with him, they can exercise options.

City Manager Huebler commented that years ago the City did a comprehensive wage/salary analysis and MML brought in an outside company and provided a scale which was adopted by council about 20 years ago. Since then, the only thing that has been adjusted is the cost of living. The salary puts him in the middle of the range in the county, and he is the most senior-experienced City Manager in the county.

Mayor Pro Tem Whalen commented that Council Member Bartholomew and Council Member Cabala have already answered the question about salary with the research carried out. As elected officials, it is their job to do the research.

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

B. Marina Pump-Out

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to authorize submission of a Michigan DNR Boat Pump-out Grant application for \$16,890 with the required 25% local match.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bartholomew, supported by Holmstrom that the Council meeting be adjourned at 6:27 p.m. All ayes.

Emery M. Hatch, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk