

CITY OF WHITEHALL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2015

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

ABSENT: Sikkenga

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Sweeting, City Manager Huebler, Police Chief Squiers 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.

Council Member Bartholomew moved to amend the agenda to add after new business a closed session to discuss the written legal opinion of the attorney, seconded by Salter, CARRIED, to approve the amended agenda. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Whalen, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to approve the August 11 meeting minutes with amendments. All ayes.

Council Member Cabala requested to have her comment about the research conducted on City Manager's salaries to be added to the minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Salter, CARRIED, to approve the account payables in the amount of \$709,805.78 and checks be drawn in their several amounts.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Future of History, Marina Advisory, Planning Commission, Rotary Thank You, White Lake Environmental Network

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

Council Member Holmstrom commented on the 11th annual Cemetery Tour scheduled for Oakhurst Cemetery for September 26 at 10 am as listed in The Future of History newsletter.

Council Member Cabala pointed out the new title of the newsletter under new leadership for the Lakeshore Museum and noted that there are several things in it about our area. She also went to Heritage Park and commented that our former city staff is doing an excellent job there.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

City Manager Huebler commented that the 8th grade girls were beating Ravenna 11-3 after the third, with no air in the gym.

Mayor Hatch commented that it was nice to see one of the council candidates at the Labor Day Walk. Candidate Dick Connell commented that it was enjoyable.

Council Member Cabala announced that they are looking for volunteers to do painting and other improvements at the Transfer Station. They also need weed wackers, rakes, brooms, and paint. She also wondered when we may begin talking about Christmas decorations since we have budgeted for new ones this year.

Council Member Whalen informed the public that Montague's Mayor was fine at the Labor Day walk. He did stop part way through, but was able to finish the walk.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Fetch Beer Tent Event

Motion by Whalen, seconded by Cabala, CARRIED, to approve Fetch Brewing Company's request for a Beer Tent event on October 10, 2015 from 5 pm – 12 am. All ayes.

Council Member Bartholomew clarified what is acceptable for beer tents – double fencing or tent walls as specified in Fetch's request. Police Chief Squiers responded that tent walls are acceptable with a second fence.

B. Homecoming Parade

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Bartholomew, CARRIED, to approve the Homecoming Parade request for Friday, September 25, 2015 from 5:30 – 6:30. All ayes.

C. Tannery Grant Extension

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the Tannery Grant extension. All ayes.

Clarification was made on the actual dates of the extension.

D. Marina Rates

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve eliminating the theater style, raising the marina rates to \$100 each slip and increasing to 45 slips.

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

E. Marina Season & Slips

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Whalen, CARRIED, to approve a boating season to match the state seasonal employment designation from May 10 to September 10. All ayes.

F. Retiree Pensions

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Whalen, CARRIED, to approve an actuarial study for a potential rate increase to the defined benefit retirement plan.

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

Motion by Bartholomew, seconded by Whalen, CARRIED, to move into Closed Session to discuss written legal opinion of the city attorney. All ayes.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Hatch resumed the open session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

City Manager Huebler announced that the new DPW truck and the new Police Interceptor are out in the parking lot for viewing.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bartholomew, supported by Holmstrom that the Council meeting be adjourned at 6:55 p.m. All ayes.

Emery M. Hatch, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk