

CITY OF WHITEHALL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
December 22, 2015

PRESENT: Tanya Cabala, Ellie Dennis, Debi Hillebrand, Jeff Holmstrom, Patrick Landis, Steve Salter, and Edward Whalen

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Student Representative Lachlan Moore, Treasurer Audo, City Manager Huebler, Police Chief Squiers, and City Clerk Bourdon

Mayor Whalen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Hillebrand, seconded by Landis, CARRIED, to approve the December 8 meeting minutes. All ayes.

Council Member Cabala requested to add inviting the politicians to speak with us regarding revenue sharing.

#### APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion by Salter, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the account payables in the amount of \$125,356.15 and checks be drawn in their several amounts.

Council Member Cabala asked about renegotiating with the garbage service provider and Treasurer Audo replied that the other carriers cannot match the service requirements.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Salter, Holmstrom, Hillebrand, Landis, Cabala, Dennis, and Whalen; No – None; Absent – None.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Ambulance Board, Arts Council, Central Dispatch, Central Dispatch Financial Report, Charter Communications, Goals Update, Library Newsletter, Senior Center, Wastewater

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

Council Member Cabala asked if procedures were put in place for checks and balances to prevent future fraudulent ambulance billing. Council Member Holmstrom provided background on billing. City Manager Huebler provided information on the potential fines and settlement of them. Cabala would like to see something put in place for checks and balances.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Scharmer, 8485 Old Channel Trail, Montague, introduced himself and explained his involvement with the sesquicentennial team and provided CDs on the architectural styles of Whitehall from the 1860s to 1950s.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

Mayor Whalen awarded the 25<sup>th</sup> year longevity award to Treasurer Laurie Audo and thanked her for her service.

Council Member Hillebrand complimented the Playhouse's new roof and the gazebo's festive look. She also requested if lighting could stay on year round.

Council Member Landis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and commented that the roof job was nicely done.

Mayor Pro Tem Salter commented that boaters have commented that the lighting on the gazebo is distracting at night and wondered if a motion sensor could be installed.

Council Member Cabala wished everyone a Merry Christmas and asked about a goal setting session for 2016.

Student Representative Moore reported that the high school choir caroled at the mall and the Grand Traverse Pie Company. The Edukators performed on Friday to raise money for the food pantry. Over the years they have raised \$40,000.

Council Member Dennis wished everyone a happy winter solstice.

Mayor Whalen wishes everyone a series of holidays and commends the snow removal efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Hekkema Property – Resolution 15-31

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Cabala, CARRIED, to authorize the execution of the Conservation Easement and Notice of Grant Requirements required completing the acquisition of 104 acres from Hekkema & Son. Roll Call Vote: Yes – Holmstrom, Cabala, Dennis, Hillebrand, Landis, Salter, and Whalen; No – None; Absent – None.

New executive director Steve Coverly was on hand to answer questions and provide restoration plans.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Holmstrom, supported by Hillebrand that the Council meeting be adjourned at 6:30 p.m. All ayes.

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Edward L. Whalen, Mayor

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Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk