

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
April 13, 2021
5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Scott Brown, Dick Connell, Virginia DeMumbrum, Ellie Dennis, Debi Hillebrand, Sean Mullally, and Steve Salter (all remote from Whitehall, MI)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Huebler, Alyssa Seaver, Roger Squiers, Laurie Audo, and Sawyer Rozgowski.

Mayor Hillebrand called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Sidewalk Snowplowing – Discussion surrounded sidewalk snowplowing for main areas within the City (ie. Alice St, Colby St, Division St, and Mears Ave). Safety for those walking to the schools and through the downtown appeared to be a priority. Huebler to put together an RFP, which includes major and secondary streets, for Council to review.

Splashpad – Huebler explained the importance of moving forward with the splashpad considering the significant financial donations already obtained. He also pointed to the importance of hiring a Project Manager (PM) to oversee the remainder of the project, as the CoVid pandemic along with scheduling conflicts, has created difficulty in completion. Brown asked for costs associated with hiring a Project Manager. Overall, Council expressed the priority of securing additional donors to avoid the use of taxpayer dollars. Huebler was authorized to contact a PM and obtain any associated costs.

Single Waste Hauler – Hillebrand discussed the importance of reevaluating a single waste hauler within the City. DeMumbrum and Dennis both agreed that there would be benefits by reduced emissions and costs to residents. Brown and Salter indicated they had not received any interest from the public. Huebler to make contact with the City of Montague and Connell to review options/costs and bring back to Council for review.

Building Fees – Huebler presented the current setup of building, plumbing, and mechanical permit fees. He stated that electrical fees are based on a fixed itemized basis, while building, plumbing, and mechanical are based on the value of the project. Staff recommended moving all to an itemized fee schedule, as most municipalities are moving this direction. Council agreed to convert building, plumbing, and mechanical permits to itemized fees.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elie Ghazal requested an overview of the discussion surround the splashpad, as he arrived later than anticipated.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:50 P.M.

Debra Hillebrand, Mayor

Alyssa Seaver, Deputy City Clerk

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ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Huebler, Alyssa Seaver, Roger Squiers, Laurie Audo, and Sawyer Rozgowski, and Student Rep. Rylan Bernhardt

Mayor Hillebrand called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by DeMumbrum, seconded by Dennis, CARRIED, to approve the agenda. All yeses

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. March 23, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$496,225.30
- C. Communications: MCC Community Report, Planning Commission Minutes, Rental Inspection Report, Wastewater Newsletter, White Lake Senior Center Letter

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Dennis, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Agenda. Yes – 6; No – 1, Brown; Absent - 0

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

A. Mayoral Board Appointments

Motion by Connell, seconded by Dennis, CARRIED, to approve the appointment of Raymond Veeder to the White Lake Community Library Board and Virginia DeMumbrum, Sean Mullally, and Rylan Bernhardt, to the White Lake Area Climate Action Council. Yes – 6; No – 0; Absent – 0 (DeMumbrum abstained)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Kordecki, owner of Whitehall Landing, mentioned encouraging news they have seen a high number of boat slip rentals this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 21-01 New Code Adoption

Connell asked for the section regarding the keeping of animals to be discussed. Dennis also mentioned she has ordinance questions. Hillebrand asked for those questions to be sent directly to Huebler, and the discussion to be sent back to the next work session.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Dennis, CARRIED, to postpone Ordinance 21-01 New Code Adoption to the next work session for further discussion. Yes – 7; No – 0; Absent – 0

B. WLFA Lease

Motion by Dennis, seconded by DeMumbrum, CARRIED, to approve the White Lake Fire Authority's request to terminate the current lease of seven bays and administrative area on the southwest portion of City Hall.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Connell, Dennis, DeMumbrum, Mullally, Salter, Brown, and Hillebrand;
No – None; Absent – None

C. Pub 111 Outdoor Seating

Michael Kordecki, of Pub 111, mentioned that he would make every effort to improve the appearance and service for the outdoor seating.

Motion by Salter, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to approve Pub 111's Limited Outdoor Service Area Permission Conversion, as requested subject to the installation of adequate and aesthetically pleasing vehicle traffic barriers and designated dining and drinking areas.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Salter, Mullally, Dennis, DeMumbrum and Hillebrand;
No – 2, Brown and Connell; Absent – None

D. Resolution 21-10 Budget Amendment #5

Motion by DeMumbrum, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to approve Resolution 21-10 Budget Amendment #5, which includes an increase in transfer from Major Street of \$21,318 and from Water \$16,578, and a decrease from TIFA of \$36,600.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – DeMumbrum, Mullally, Salter, Brown, Connell, Dennis and Hillebrand;
No – None; Absent – None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mullally expressed concerns about how funds, from the American Rescue Plan, would be allocated to the City. Brown asked about progress regarding AgriMed and WaterDog.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hillebrand adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:36 pm.

Debra Hillebrand, Mayor

Alyssa Seaver, Deputy City Clerk