

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Garden Room
January 11, 2022
5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Scott Brown, Dick Connell, Keith Heidelberg, Sean Mullally, Steve Salter, and Steve Sikkenga

ABSENT: Jeff Holmstrom

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Huebler, Brenda Bourdon, Roger Squiers, and Will Meier.

Mayor Salter called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Senior Millage – Brown requested that part of the senior millage funds be allocated to the Senior Center instead of it all going to the Viking Athletic Center (White Lake Area Comm Ed). He expressed discontent that the WLACE has not yet provided the services/programs that the money was supposed to make possible. Huebler explained that the general fund can handle the \$2,500 allocation to the senior center and due to the pandemic, WLACE was hampered from creating new programs. Huebler was tasked with providing numbers and cost/fees associated with both the Senior Center and the Viking Athletic Center.

Lunches, Memberships, and Training – Brown believes that the taxpayers should not be paying for city employee training, memberships, or lunches for the BLT board. Huebler and Bourdon explained the importance of training for employee effectiveness and the memberships make it possible for additional learning opportunities, group forums, networking, and reduced and eliminated fees for training. Salter felt the small amount of money spent on lunches for BLT which has non-paid board members meet during lunch is a warranted expense.

Manager's Contract – Brown is not satisfied with the City Manager's contract and feels he's overpaid. Heidelberg through a series of questions on city performance maintained that the City Manager is doing his job well and is satisfied with his performance. Huebler explained that a recent salary survey of area City Managers showed his pay is slightly below average. Others expressed satisfaction with the City Manager's performance and consensus was to move forward with extending his contract.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comments were received from the public which included sidewalk snowplowing and the possibility of getting a volunteer group to help those that have difficulty clearing their sidewalks.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:58 P.M.

Steve Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers
January 11, 2022

PRESENT: Scott Brown, Dick Connell, Keith Heidelberg, Jeff Holmstrom, Sean Mullally, Steve Salter, and Steve Sikkenga

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Huebler, Brenda Bourdon, Roger Squiers, and Will Meier

Mayor Salter called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to approve the agenda. All yeses

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. December 28, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$131,146.56
- C. Communications: MCC Annual Report, Planning Commission Minutes

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

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Comments received from Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comment received by Keith Olds.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 22-01 Council Pay

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Sikkenga, FAILED, to approve the increase of \$5 per month for council member pay.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Mullally, Sikkenga; No – Heidelberg, Holmstrom, Brown, Connell, and Salter; Absent – None

- B. Resolution 22-02 Poverty Exemption

Motion by Connell, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to adopt the 2022 Poverty Exemption Policies and Guidelines as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Connell, Brown, Holmstrom, Heidelberg, Sikkenga, Mullally, Salter;
No – None; Absent – None

C. Resolution 22-03 Residents Right to Protest

Motion by Brown, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to provide the right of resident and non-resident taxpayers to file protests to the Board of Review in person or in writing, without the necessity of personal appearance by the taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative, provided such written protest is received on or before the second Tuesday in March of the tax year at issue.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Brown, Holmstrom, Heidelberg, Sikkenga, Connell, Mullally, and Salter;
No – None; Absent – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to move in to a closed session to discuss purchase of real property.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Holmstrom, Brown, Heidelberg, Sikkenga, Connell, Mullally, and Salter;
No – None; Absent – None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:55 pm.

Steve Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk