

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Garden Room
June 14, 2022
5:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Jeff Holmstrom

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

Mayor Salter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ambulance Response Times – Council Member Heidelberg reported that ambulance response times are still long even with reduced COVID runs. Council Member Connell commented that White Lake Fire should put the matter of supplying ambulance services to a millage vote rather than depending on Fruitland and the City of Whitehall funding it.

Bike Safety – Chief Squiers reported that we have not had many issues with car/bike incidences and with low speeds in town and the state doing due diligence in establishing the 3-foot passing law, he doesn't see the necessity to increase the 3-foot state law to 5 feet.

Deer Population – Chief Squiers commented that there are few car/deer accidents and feels that's not a significant enough concern to implement a deer ordinance. Council member Connell commented that there is definitely a problem citing that 23 deer have been seen in his side yard destroying plants. Consensus was to investigate a targeted culling of the deer; Chief Squiers will contact the DNR.

Climate Action Plan – City Manager Huebler provided clarification for the public regarding the resolution that was passed last fall regarding the report that was submitted on time vs. the plan that is still in the works. The resolution called for a report to be submitted within 180 days which was provided. Council Member Sikkenga stated that the criticism from the public about their view of inaction is not helping and not accurate. Sikkenga and Huebler both commented that the technology is not there yet to make significant improvements. Electric mowers and trucks cannot keep up with the demand of the City's needs at this time, but the city does consider options that do make sense. In addition, the city is in the midst of its 3rd energy audit in the last 20 years working with ABM - Building & Energy Solutions. Mayor Pro Tem Mullally stated that we need to improve but through innovation and we need to do what's economically smart.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Bruce Froelich provided suggestions in reference to identifying true ambulance response times and provided additional input on Montague's deer ordinance.

Lillian Morningstar provided an update on the road construction that started on her road and reported on a domestic rabbit that's on the loose.

Tamara Horne reported that the Climate Action group is trying to work with us for the Climate Action Plan.

Laura Connell wanted clarification on what response to provide to residents with deer population issues. The city will take direction from the DNR.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:54 P.M.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

DRAFT

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers
June 14, 2022

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

ABSENT: Jeff Holmstrom

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

Mayor Salter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to excuse Jeff Holmstrom from tonight's meeting. All yeses.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. May 24, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$342,828.21
- C. Communications: Central Dispatch Minutes

Motion by Connell, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Agenda. Yes – 5; No – 1, Brown; Absent – 1, Holmstrom

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Comments were received from council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Coleman commented on working together on solutions for climate action.

Jenny McNeil introduced herself as a candidate running for Circuit Judge as did Al Swanson.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 22-28 Police Cruiser Bid

Motion by Brown, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to award the purchase of a 2022 Hybrid Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD under a three-year lease with Leasing Specialists LLC for an annual payment of \$13,370; documentation fees of \$400; and a \$1 buyout at the end of the lease, and approve the necessary budget amendment as presented.

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

B. Resolution 22-29 MCAC Playhouse Grant

Motion by Connell, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to authorize the three grant applications to the Michigan Council for Arts and Culture as presented.

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

C. Resolution 22-30 Budget Amendment #3

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the budget amendments as presented.

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

D. Resolution 22-31 Social District Permit Applications

No action taken. The social district applications will be combined together for action at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were received by council: Sikkenga clarifying his description on Climate Action criticisms and Brown on the Social District application.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:40 pm.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk