

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Garden Room
August 9, 2022
5:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

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

Relocate Solar Powered Charging Picnic Table – The mayor suggested Goodrich Park would be a better location for the new solar powered charging table and sought input from Council. Some agreed that Goodrich would be a nice location.

Broadband Study – Presentation by GMED: Morgan Carroll from the Greater Muskegon Economic Development presented on the county-wide broadband study that they wish to conduct with the financial support of local municipalities. The completion of the study will allow GMED to work with providers to expand and upgrade services. The proposed study cost is \$132,000 and GMED is requesting \$10,000 from the city.

City Lake-Front Property – City Manager Huebler reported that he researched values of similar sized properties and found eight of them valued at \$33K. He suggested a minimum starting bid for adjacent lot owners should start at \$30K. Council agreed with his assessment.

Food Vendors – Mayor Salter reported on the recent complaint of a local restaurant owner on food trucks who park with the serving window facing the road. Manager Huebler reported that due to the safety issue, the solicitation permit was immediately amended to reflect the requirement of the service window to face the sidewalk even if the vehicle has to park opposed to traffic.

Lake Street Snowmobiles – Mayor Salter revisited the request to allow snowmobiles on Lake Street. After Chief conferred with DPW Director Armstrong, he didn't see a problem with it. An ordinance will be amended to allow it.

Skate Park – Salter has been approached numerous times for a skate park and believes Slocum Park would be an ideal location. Holmstrom agrees; Mullally is willing to discuss further; Brown doesn't think we need any more parks, we have too many to take care of. Council Member Holmstrom doesn't want the city to be stagnant. The splash pad was a great improvement and would like to see more.

Downtown Retail – Council Member Holmstrom would like the downtown businesses on Colby to be retail only. City Attorney Meier will review our ordinances.

Dog Park – Holmstrom has received requests for a dog park and mentioned an area by Funnell Field as a good location.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ryan Briegel agreed with Holmstrom regarding only retail in downtown, but also knows that it's not always plausible. He also reported that the city has great momentum going with the splash pad and social district and would love to see the skate park a reality. He is willing to help with a committee, but not chair it.

Lillian Morningstar reported on street updates.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:52 P.M.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

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Council Chambers
August 9, 2022

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

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 Mullally, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to approve the agenda with the removal of item 3, special presentation on the energy audit which will be provided at the next council meeting. All yeses.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. July 26, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$442,901.50
- C. Communications: BLT Minutes, Cedar Creek Notice, ZBA Minutes

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

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Comments were received from council. City Manager Huebler reported that bids were received for the pathway repair for a French drain to be installed. The emergency repairs required council notification of the bids received: \$46K from Ryerson, \$56K from Double L and 100+K from McCormick. The city will be using Ryerson for the repairs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 22-41 Right of Way Easements

Motion by Connell, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to authorize the City Manager to execute easement agreements with Jennifer Grow, Lebanon Lutheran Church, and Nancy Thomas for reconstruction of the south end of Mears Avenue scheduled for 2023.

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

B. Resolution 22-42 Lot Split Request

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to waive the referral to the Planning Commission and approve the lot split as submitted by 56 Nash for 1627 Mears Ave as presented.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Connell, CARRIED, to move into closed session to discuss acquisition of real property.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:45 pm.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk