

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

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

ABSENT: Scott Brown

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

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Grass Ordinance – In responding to the question that Council Member Brown wanted discussed regarding providing a one-time published grass ordinance warning in the newspaper proceeded by tickets and fines for violators, most were not comfortable with that tactic. Huebler commented that even though this is Muskegon’s written ordinance, they do not follow it to the letter. In reality they are much more lenient and work with residents on compliance. Connell is not comfortable with one warning in the paper and prefers the way we currently work with residents stating that people have different circumstances. Mullally doesn’t feel a need for a change; Salter commented that there isn’t a need for a change and that he prefers the police to have discretion for circumstances. Vacant property seems to be the most problematic.

Business Registration – Huebler provided the background on the city’s past practices of gatekeeping new businesses establishing in the City, but feels now that it’s in our best interest to formalize that practice ensuring that all zoning, building and fire regulations are known up front. Unlike other municipalities, he suggests we only have an initial registration fee rather than an annual renewal and require re-registrations when businesses change ownership or business type.

Discussion led to International Property Code and changes needed to our ordinance to allow for regulation of dilapidated commercial property.

Holmstrom also suggested that we regulate Air BnBs and include them in our business registrations.

Playhouse Loan – Huebler provided background on a past Playhouse loan to address a needed conversion of the heating system from steam to hot water back in 2011. Upon prompting from auditors to remove the loan from our books, Huebler provided options: payment in full, annual installment payments, or forgive the debt. Connell stated the Playhouse is owned by the city and since it is an asset to our community, we should support it and forgive the debt. All others were in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ellie Dennis requested that council consider providing solutions to RV parking and consider using the City’s Industrial Park as a possible solution.

Holmstrom requested that the council needs to pursue the issue of retail only in the downtown. Huebler commented that it will be brought to the Planning Commission for initial consideration.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:50 P.M.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

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

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

ABSENT: Scott Brown

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Huebler, Brenda Bourdon, Sawyer Rogzowski, and Roger Squiers

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the September 23 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$241,884.68
- C. Communications: Planning Commission Minutes, Senior Center Thank You

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

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Comments were received from the Mayor and Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tamara Horne commented on the devastating climate disaster, Hurricane Ian, and encouraged leaders to embrace climate policies.

One student from Montague's government class introduced herself.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Cyr commented on the addition of Coopersville to the waste water system as a good thing and offered pamphlets on his campaign for County Commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:12 pm.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk