

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Council Chambers
December 13, 2022

PRESENT: Scott Brown, Dick Connell, Keith Heidelberg, 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 5:02 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Michigan Sparks Grant Program – Huebler provided information on the SPARKS Grant program that will award \$65M in three rounds over the next two years. No local match is required and the first round of applications are due December 19. Staff is recommending an application be submitted to address the repair and maintenance needs of Funnell Field in compliance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan draft. It would include replacing restroom facilities, new play structures, resurfacing the basketball courts, and repairing and expanding parking at an estimated cost of \$405K. Council was in agreement with the recommendation.

Employee Insurance – Huebler provided an update on the annual review of the city's health care plans.

Climate Action Plan – Huebler provided an update on the progress of the plan and a recommendation to improve the pace of the project. He would like to retain Karoline Glamzi, a University of Michigan major in Earth & Environmental Sciences to coordinate with staff and a citizen task force to complete the plan. She would receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Council was in agreement with the recommendation.

Solar Picnic Table Charging Station – Huebler received a quote of \$14,765 to provide wireless service in Goodrich Park that would enable use of the solar picnic table. Some council members showed no interest in relocating the table from its current position.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tamara Horne encouraged council to pursue an energy audit of the city buildings in light of the spike in cost for natural gas and electricity.

Lori Coleman spoke on the Climate Action Plan.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:42 P.M.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers
December 13, 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, Brian Armstrong, Nolan Throne, Alyssa Seaver, Brook Schiller, and Will Meier

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – ANNUAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Doug Vredeveld, of Vredeveld Haefner, reviewed the 2022 Fiscal Year audit noting that a clean or unmodified opinion was issued. Doug also provided highlights of several financial statements.

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to accept the 2022 Fiscal Year audit as presented. All yeses

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the November 22 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$316,488.52
- C. Communications: Parks Master Plan Committee Minutes, Planning Commission Minutes

Motion by Connell, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Agenda. Yes – 6; No – 1, Brown; Absent – None

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Mayor Salter introduced the newest DPW employee, Jason Church.

Comments were received from the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Salter presented the following longevity awards: Nolan Throne - five years; Brian Armstrong – 30 years.

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Connell, CARRIED to confirm the mayoral board appointments as presented. Yes – 6; No – 1, Brown; Absent – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Cockerill encouraged council to pass the propane sales/dispensing ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS

None

A. Ordinance 22-10 Propane Sales

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to amend Zoning Article 9 Central Business District, Section 15-9-4 Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit by adding 15-9-4D Propane sales and the dispensing of propane fuel onsite for off-site use.

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

B. Resolution 22-54 Meeting Schedule

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to approve the 2022/2023 Work Session and Council Meeting schedule as presented.

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

C. Resolution 22-55 City Fees

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to approve the amended City Fees as presented.

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

D. Resolution 22-56 Commercial Rehabilitation Revocation

Motion by Connell, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to revoke the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate previously approved for 115 Lake Street LLC.

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

E. Resolution 22-57 2023 Street Improvement Bids

Motion by Heidelberg, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to concur with the Michigan Department of Transportation's recommendation to award the 2023 Street Improvement Project to McCormick Sand for the low qualified bid of \$1,354,020.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Briegel encouraged council to implement a skate park in Slocum Park.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk