

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers
January 24, 2023

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 6:00 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 January 10 Work Session & Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$165,301.23
- C. Communications: BLT Minutes

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

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to appoint Dick Connell to the Viking Athletic Center Committee. All yeses

Comments were received from the Mayor and Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Briegel, Pitkin Drug, read letters from Kim Snellenberger & Pam Sikkenga, both in opposition to the zone change focusing on only retail in the Central Business District. Ryan also spoke in opposition of the zone change proposal. Steve Mayberry, Northland Insurance, is opposed to the zone change and feels that it's the wrong way to go; downtown needs a good mix of retail and services. Chris Billie, new resident, wanted more information on the issue. Phil Petsch spoke in opposition of the zone change, expressed that the idea is misguided and commented that many buildings are not ideal for retail and would need renovation. Jason Charnley, Lakeshore Orthodontics, is in opposition. Brent Raeth, Catchmark, shared all the ways that Catchmark has given back to the community, commented that retail growth would be organic, and felt betrayed by the suggestion of the zone change. Sean Montgomery, Mylans, is opposed to the zone change. He commented that the city needs to do more to help rather than hurt businesses. Susan Britton, Home Services, commented that the downtown needs both retail and services. Bob Ingalls, Hokey Pokey, commented that the suggested change is short-sighted, can't bludgeon what you don't want to get what you want. Neil & Amy Martell, Big Johns, get many customers from the other businesses currently in the downtown and are opposed to the change.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Feet on the Street

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to approve the Feet on the Street event for June 4th from 2 pm – 7 pm which would require the use of the N. Mears parking lot and social district. All yeses

B. Tag Day Request – Whitehall Band Boosters

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the tag day request from the Whitehall Band Boosters for Saturday, May 13, 2023. All yeses

C. Ordinance 23-01 Rental Property

Motion by Brown, seconded by Connell, CARRIED, to approve the ordinance to amend Chapter 67: Rental Property as presented.

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

D. Resolution 23-03 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the Parks & Recreation Plan as presented.

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

E. Resolution 23-04 Poverty Exemption

Motion by Connell, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to approve the Poverty Exemption policy and procedure as presented.

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

F. Resolution 23-05 Residents Right to Protest

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

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

G. Resolution 23-06 Board of Review

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to establish the Board of Review meeting dates as Wednesday, March 15th from 1 pm – 4 pm and 6 pm – 9 pm; and Thursday, March 16th from 9 am – to 12 pm and 1 pm – 4 pm.

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

H. Resolution 23-07 Senior Millage

Motion by Connell, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the application in the amount of \$14,753 with the intent of funding senior activities through White Lake Area Community Education (\$12,209) and the White Lake Senior Center (\$2,544).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Briegel commented that we need more events like Feet on the Street to create more downtown vibrancy.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:59 pm.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of the draft minutes of the Whitehall City Council of a regular meeting held on January 24, 2023. Public notice was given and the meeting was conducted in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, (PA267, 1976). Minutes of the meeting will be made available as required by the Act.

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk