

CITY OF WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Council Chambers
July 11, 2023

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Bourdon and Will Meier

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Climate Mobilization Action Plan – Several council members commented positively on the plan and believe it's a good starting point. Heidelberg commented that it also needs staff's input. Consensus was to move forward with the plan and adjust as needed in the future.

Deer Control – Holmstrom's only concern on the draft ordinance was the background checks. Brown and Holmstrom believe that 6 acres is too large and should be reduced to 4 acres. Consensus was the ordinance was a good start and to move forward with it. Amendments can be made in the future as more is learned through experience.

Attorney Attendance – Consensus was to continue to have the attorney attend meetings unless we know for certain that his presence isn't warranted. In those cases, he will be contacted prior to the meeting.

No Mow May – There was no opposition to suspending the grass ordinance during the month of May to encourage No Mow May; however, no one will be penalized for mowing if they choose.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tamara Horne commented that Karoline Glamzi did a thorough job on the Climate Action Plan and encourages council to approve it. Dave Frederick apologized for his past comments and was pleased with the Climate Action Plan. He encouraged council to add timelines and costs. John Horne agreed with previous comments on the Climate Action Plan. Tanya Cabala thanked council for their climate action discussion and encouraged council/staff to reach out to Karl Bloss at Consumers for his expertise on electric vehicles.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:41 P.M.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

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ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Bourdon 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 – KATIE HIGGS, MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Katie Higgs provided background on Redevelopment Ready Communities and congratulated the city on achieving Essentials certification. She recognized staff for the hard work and presented the RRC award to Mayor Salter and Brenda Bourdon.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the June 27 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$245,017.56
- C. Communications: County Public Works Minutes, WESTPLAN Policy Committee Minutes, WMSRDC Newsletter, Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes

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

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Comments were received from the Mayor and Council.

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Heidelberg, CARRIED, to appoint Rick Blankstrom on the Planning Commission to fill Dave Bedau's vacated seat. All yeses

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Cyr responded to a question from the Mayor.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 23-27 Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption

Motion by Heidelberg, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to grant a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption for the real property, excluding land, located in Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation District at 201 West Colby Street for a period of ten years, beginning December 31, 2023, and ending December 30, 2033, pursuant to the provisions of PA 210 of 2005 as amended.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:27 pm.

Steven Salter, Mayor

Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk