

CITY OF WHITEHALL  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Council Chambers  
August 22, 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, 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

#### APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the August 8 Work Session & Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$364,629.68
- C. Communications: Art Wall Email; Central Dispatch July 2023 Minutes; Congrats from Curtis VanderWall; Thank Yous: White Lake Fireworks Committee, White Lake Chamber; Waste Water Management Committee 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

Comments were received from the City Manager, Mayor and Council.

Mayor Salter presented longevity awards to Josh Vanderputte (5 years) and Brandon Mahoney (25 years).

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Avery Jura encouraged council to keep the Art Wall and has heard much enthusiasm from community members to keep the wall.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Art Wall

After clarifying that there should be no paintings on the tunnel's exterior walls and ensuring regular checks for obscenities; consensus was to continue with the art wall. No motion was made to discontinue.

##### B. MML Designation of Voting Delegate

Motion by Connell, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to designate Mayor Salter as the Voting Delegate for the MML Annual Meeting on October 18 with City Manager Scott Huebler as the alternate. All yeses

C. Resolution 23-28 Recreation Passport Grant Local Unit of Government Match Funds

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Heidelberg, CARRIED, to approve the grant submission for Gee Park Upgrades to the Recreation Passport Grant Program with \$25,000 in matching funds.

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

D. Resolution 23-29 Recreation Passport Grant Local Unit of Government Match Funds

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Connell, CARRIED, to approve the grant submission for Goodrich Park Upgrades to the Recreation Passport Grant Program with \$43,700 in matching funds.

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

E. Resolution 23-30 City Fees

Motion by Connell, seconded by Mullally, to approve the fees as submitted with Exemption Certificate increasing from \$300 to \$500 and Deer Control Eligible Property Application at \$20 and the Deer Control Hunting permit at \$35.

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to amend the motion to remove fees for the Deer Control program.

Amended Main Motion CARRIED to approve the fee submitted for the Exemption Certificate of \$500 and no fees for the Deer Control program.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Avery Jura mentioned he is leaving for school, but will influence changes and expand the art wall team. They will fundraise for protective measures against wall misuse. He emphasized that the art wall is a community canvas, celebrating its collective beauty.

Seth spoke about the positivity of the wall.

Susan Phillips acknowledged the wall's intention, but questioned how issues will be addressed, noting that while some art is beautiful, some isn't.

Tom Ziemer said the tunnel is suitable for art and mentioned Munising's Art Alley, where an art council approves entries, resulting in genuine art. He suggested this approach as an excellent alternative.

Mark Neinhouse congratulated Brandon Mahoney on his 25-year milestone and commented that the deer ordinance's 6-acre requirement is excessive and suggested the use of City property.

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)

Cathy Cook praised the art wall concept but noted concerns about excessive graffiti. She believes the community can learn and suggests using volunteers to educate others through art camps.

Brandon Heaton supported the art wall, believing in solutions for regular cleanup. He emphasized art is an expression of one's voice and urged focusing on its positive impact.

Mike Jura expressed pride in his son's accomplishments and organizational foresight. He thanked the council for supporting the idea.

Mayor Salter expressed gratitude for living in a community that appreciates art.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 7:01 pm.

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Steven Salter, Mayor

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Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk