

CITY OF WHITEHALL  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
Council Chambers  
September 12, 2023

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Huebler, Will Meier, and Brook Schiller

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

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**White Lake Fire Authority Articles of Incorporation** – Chief McCarthy presented the changes made to the WLFA Articles of Incorporation changes as requested by Council Member Connell. The major changes that have been made include a change of the timeline for review of said articles to once every 15 years. The board member seats were increased from 6 voters to 7 to remove the possibility of a tie. Fruitland Township will remain in control of the Chair seat as well as 2 additional member seats. The City of Whitehall and Whitehall Township will each have 2 members and be eligible to have the Vice Chair seat. Terms for all members increased from 1 to 5 years. All board members would be made signers on WLFA accounts for emergency purposes. Chief McCarthy also wanted the public and council to know that the WLFA intends to continue to serve the local municipalities within it's 54 square mile jurisdiction (largest in the county) with 5 min response times and the best trained firefighters and would like the articles to meet the needs of those municipalities now and in the future.

**Movies in the Park** – Council member Holmstrom provided an estimated equipment proposal and an idea on how sponsorships for movies in the park could work. He would like this item to be considered for the FY 24/25 budget. He believes this type of event could take place at Goodrich Park in the summer months and would encourage families to get together and food vendors to be on site. Council member Connell wondered if having the events at the Playhouse would be a better idea as it is not dependent on weather and could go year-round. It also has all the equipment available and would not require waiting until 10pm after the parks close to start a movie. Mullally and Salter supported looking further at this idea at budgeting time.

**City Manager Review** – Council member Brown noted that the City Manager's contract is the only place that states when/how the manager should be reviewed and would like a better process outlined and included in the City Charter as a standard that all council members have input. Council member Sikkenga agreed that there should be a written policy. Mayer Salter believes that the process should remain flexible for each Council to decide and include in the manager's contract.

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:51 P.M.**

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Steven Salter, Mayor

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Brook Schiller, Deputy City Clerk

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ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Huebler, Will Meier, and Brook Schiller

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 August 22 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$359,493.44
- C. Communications: Arts Council Thank You, Muskegon County Public Works Minutes, Planning Commission 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

Comments were received from the Mayor and Council.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

County Commissioner Cyr announced the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event coming up on September 30<sup>th</sup>. He also noted that 8 of the county departments have moved into the new space previously occupied by Baker College and encouraged community members to visit any of the committee and board meetings. The Muskegon County Hall of Justice is currently under construction with a façade improvement, a new court room, and offices on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor using their ARPA funds.

Tom Ziemer spoke about the Art Wall and provided photos of a similar project in Munising, MI for the council members to consider.

Jen Hain wanted the council and the community to know that several local groups of young people and students have been monitoring and covering vulgarity on the art wall.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None

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NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 23-32 Cemetery Road Bids

Motion by Heidelberg, seconded by Sikkenga, CARRIED, to approve the bid made by Bob's Asphalt & Paving to remove and replace the cemetery roads in Oakhurst Cemetery.

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

B. Resolution 23-33 Goodrich Park Lights Bids

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Mullally, CARRIED, to approve the bid made by Korthase and Sons Co to remove and replace parking lot and pedestrian lights at Goodrich Park.

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

C. Road Closure Request

Motion by Mullally, seconded by Brown, CARRIED, to approve the road closure request from the White Lake Community Library for their National Good Neighbor Day "longest table" meal event scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2023. All yeses

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tanya Cabala spoke about speeding and noise issues in the Alice & Warner area, the WMEAC recycling project, townhall webinar, and feedback survey.

Mark Nienhouse also commented on the speed on Warner Street.

Two students from Mr. Brunson's Montague High School class stood to be acknowledged.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:32 pm.

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Steven Salter, Mayor

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Brook Schiller, Deputy City Clerk