



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Council Chambers

January 9, 2024

PRESENT Scott Brown, Tanya Cabala, Debi Hillebrand, Stephen Sikkenga, Steve Salter, and Tom Ziemer

ABSENT Jeff Holmstrom

ALSO PRESENT Scott Huebler, Brenda Bourdon, Will Meier, and Roger Squiers

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Grant Applications

City Manager Huebler reported that none of the applied grants for park upgrades and repairs at Funnell Field, Gee Park, Goodrich Park, and the Marina were awarded to the city. Despite this setback, the council had initially allocated \$105,000 for park improvements, intended to serve as a matching fund for the grants. Unfortunately, with the grant funds unavailable, this allocation becomes the sole resource for park improvements in the current budget year.

Huebler proposed using the available funds on the highlighted improvements to repair what exists rather than add new items based on financial constraints. These include resurfacing the west parking lot, expanding the middle parking lot, and resurfacing basketball courts at Funnell Field. Additionally, plans involve repairing and upgrading irrigation systems and installing an ADA-compliant drinking fountain at Goodrich Park. The repairs to the fishing deck will be covered by TIFA funds. The council supported the proposed improvements.

Board & Commissions

City Manager Huebler presented a preliminary policy draft concerning appointments to boards and commissions. Council members actively engaged in the discussion, offering input on the proposed concepts. Suggestions included enhancing council involvement earlier in the process and ensuring access to applications submitted for boards and commissions. The importance of civic education was emphasized as a means to boost the number of applicants.

During the deliberation, several council members expressed their interest in serving on boards. Also shared was a sentiment that an individual should not hold positions on an excessive number of boards, leading to suggestions for implementing term limits. A more refined policy governing board and commission appointments will be presented at a future work session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom to approve the agenda.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the December 19 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$377,410.48
- C. Communications: Planning Commission Annual Report, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Ziemer to approve the Consent Agenda.

Voice Vote: Yes – 5; No – 1, Brown; Absent – Holmstrom

MOTION CARRIED

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Messages were received from the Mayor, Council members, and the City Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. White Lake Wanderland & Walk the Beat Request

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Cabala to approve the request from White Lake Wanderland and Walk the Beat White Lake to reserve the Social District for February 2nd (Wanderland) and July 20th (Walk the Beat) and waive the city fee for Food trucks.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

B. Feet on the Street Request

Motion by Brown, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the request from the White Lake Chamber to reserve the N. Mears promenade and social district for Feet on the Street on Sunday, June 2 from 2pm – 7 pm.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 24-01 Senior Millage

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Brown to approve the application for a senior millage allocation in the amount of \$15,414 with \$12,209 supporting services through Community Education and \$3,205 through the Senior Center.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Sikkenga, Brown, Ziemer, Hillebrand, Cabala, and Salter; No – None; Absent – Holmstrom

MOTION CARRIED

D. Resolution 24-02 Board of Review

Motion by Brown, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the following dates for Board of Review public sessions: Wednesday, March 13 from 1pm to 4pm and 6pm to 9pm and Thursday, March 14 from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Brown, Sikkenga, Cabala, Hillebrand, Ziemer, and Salter; No – None; Absent – Holmstrom

MOTION CARRIED

E. Resolution 24-03 Poverty Exemption

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Brown to adopt the 2024 Poverty Exemption Policies and Guidelines as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Cabala, Brown, Sikkenga, Hillebrand, Ziemer, and Salter; No – None; Absent – Holmstrom

MOTION CARRIED

F. Resolution 24-04 Residents Right to Protest

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Ziemer 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 taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative, 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, Ziemer, Hillebrand, Brown, Cabala, and Salter; No – None; Absent – Holmstrom

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Four students from Mr. Brunson's government class introduced themselves.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk