



WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Council Chambers
May 14, 2024

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

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Brenda Bourdon, Will Meier, and Roger Squiers

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Snowmobiles (Ziemer)

It was noted that since snowmobiles are prohibited on sidewalks and only permitted on streets, there is no need to amend the snowmobile ordinance. The sidewalk will be cleared, and was requested to be cleared to the Eagles. It was recommended to close the gate, install signage, and publish reminders in the newsletter.

Appointments (Brown)

Members discussed the appointment process with varying opinions. Salter saw no need for changes, and Cabala felt the process was fine, but suggested adding civic education. In contrast, Brown wanted to continue refining the policy and address remaining issues. Ziemer identified eight issues with the policy and opposed automatic renewals, which was clarified to not be in place. Sikkenga expressed dislike for approving a slate of names and was informed that motions could be amended. Hillebrand supported implementing term limits and restricting the number of boards a person could serve on, but others disagreed, citing difficulties in implementation and finding replacements. The session concluded with a decision to limit future work sessions to one or two policy items, with each item discussed for a maximum of 15 minutes.

TIFA Spending (Brown)

During the work session, Brown expressed his dissatisfaction with the council's oversight of TIFA's spending. Ziemer mentioned that the expenses for the bathroom project were excessive. Holmstrom explained what a TIFA is and how its funds can be used. Cabala and Hillebrand requested advance notice of TIFA projects. It was suggested to address this topic during the budget work session, where the council's authority is limited to approving the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Rowe commented on the undemocratic process of appointing board members. David Hosticka questioned the accessibility of our parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the work session at 5:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



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ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Brenda Bourdon, Will Meier, Roger Squiers, and Alyssa Seaver

Mayor Salter called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the April 23, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable - \$529,907.70
- C. Communications: Muskegon County Public Works Board Minutes, WESTPLAN Policy Meeting Minutes

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the Consent Agenda.

Voice Vote: Yes – 6; No – 1, Brown; Absent – None

MOTION CARRIED

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Messages were received from the Mayor and Council members

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jen Hain of Fetch Brewing requested to have North Mears closed on Monday nights from Memorial Day to Labor Day in order to allow for the ever-expanding Fan Club night and allow for more opportunities for other local pop-up shops, etc. Tommy Foster echoed that this would be a great opportunity. David Hosticka commented that St. Ignace has an even larger Cruz In event and they still have a parade.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. American Legion Road Closure Request

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Ziemer to approve the temporary road closure of Warner St. from E. Colby to E. Spring St. on Saturday, June 1 between 12 pm – 5 pm to provide additional parking for their annual Veterans Run.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution 24-15 State Trunkline Contract

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown to approve the MDOT state trunkline maintenance contract which authorizes Scott Huebler as signatory.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 24-16 Budget Amendment #2

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom to approve the budget amendments as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

D. Resolution 24-17 Sewer Easement

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom to authorize the City Manager to execute the Sewer Easement agreement as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Three Students from Mr. Brunson’s class introduced themselves.

Tamara Horne announced that there will be an electronics curbside recycling event at the Montague Farmer’s Market this weekend. Cabala thanked the Climate Action Committee for hosting the electronic recycling event.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk