



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Council Chambers

October 8, 2024

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

ABSENT None

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

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Social District (Salter)

Mayor Salter proposed including the Pocket Park within the Social District. In response, City Manager Huebler and City Attorney Meier clarified the boundaries of the Social District and its designated Common Area. Initially, LARA (Liquor Control Commission) had restricted alcohol consumption to the Common Area within the Social District. However, due to vague legal language, LARA is now interpreting the entire Social District as the Common Area, allowing beverages to be consumed anywhere within the district's boundaries, not just in designated zones.

Council members Brown and Ziemer expressed opposition to expanding the Social District, while Cabala and Hillebrand were open to further discussion. The general consensus was to maintain the district as it currently stands.

First Street Parking Lot Stairs (Sikkenga)

City Manager Huebler reported that the proposal to construct stairs from the First Street parking lot to Lake Street, enhancing access to the lake, will be presented to the TIFA Board for consideration in the FY25/26 budget. Council member Sikkenga expressed support for this approach.

Tannery Bay (Cabala)

City Manager Huebler reported that the permit for work related to the wetland at Tannery Bay has been issued and shared with the Council. However, Council member Cabala expressed frustration, noting that she had been told there would be an opportunity for public comment before the permit's approval. She plans to write a letter addressing the issue and invited other Council members to sign it. In response to Cabala's disappointment in the filling of a portion of the wetland in Tannery Bay, Council member Holmstrom acknowledged the city has secured 200 acres off of Peterson, which is being restored as a wetland, demonstrating the Council's commitment to wetland conservation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Buckwalter and Kevin Goff, residents of Whitehall living at Tannery Bay, spoke on the wetlands and maintenance regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the work session at 5:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers
October 8, 2024

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

ABSENT None (Brown, Sikkenga arrived late)

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Voice Vote: All yeses (Brown, Sikkenga absent)

MOTION CARRIED

(Sikkenga returned)

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the September 24, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$175,145.87
- C. Communications: Muskegon County Public Works Meeting Minutes, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom to approve the Consent Agenda. (Brown returned)

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Messages were received from Council members, and the City Manager. Brown would like E-bikes on sidewalks addressed at next work session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were received from Kim Cyr.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Eagle Scout Project Request

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Hillebrand to approve the Eagle Scout Project submitted by Maggie Derby to build a staircase stretching from the White Lake Community Library parking lot to the bike path.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution 24-33 Lot Split Request

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Brown to approve the lot split request in the 600 block of Lake Street approved by the Planning Commission as submitted.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 24-34 Leaf Removal

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga to authorize the City Manager to negotiate the purchase of two leaf vacuum trucks and to split the cost of a third with North Muskegon for an amount not to exceed \$112,500 and further approves the necessary budget amendments.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Students from Montague introduced themselves and provided their government teachers' name for their class assignment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk