



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers

November 26, 2024

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

ABSENT None

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

MOTION CARRIED

SPECIAL PRESENTATION, ANNUAL AUDIT, MATTHEW VREDEVELD

Matthew Vredevelt, of Vredevelt Haefner, reviewed the 2024 Fiscal Year audit noting that a clean or unmodified opinion was issued. Matthew also provided highlights of several financial statements.

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom, CARRIED, to accept the 2024 Fiscal Year audit as presented.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the November 12, 2024 Work Session and Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$231,787.05
- C. Communications: Central Dispatch Minutes, Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Report, TIFA Special Meeting Minutes, WESTPLAN Policy Meeting Minutes

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

Voice Vote: Yes – 6; No – 1, Brown

MOTION CARRIED

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comments on the proposed loan to the Playhouse reflected a mix of support and opposition. Supporters emphasized the Playhouse's contributions to the community through classes, workshops, and cultural enrichment, describing it as a valuable and unique local asset. They noted its potential to nurture and mentor children and highlighted its financial goals to remain sustainable. Opponents raised concerns about the Playhouse's ability to repay the loan and questioned its long-term sustainability. Suggestions included improving marketing efforts and ensuring oversight to maintain fiscal responsibility.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**A. Howmet IFT Public Hearing**

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom, to schedule a public hearing on the Howmet application for industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate (IFT) for Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6 pm.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution 24-40 Meeting Schedule

Motion by Hillebrand, seconded by Ziemer, to approve the 24/25 Council Meeting schedule as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 24-41 Police Cruiser

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Ziemer, to authorize the purchase of a 2024 Ford Police Interceptor from Emergency Services for \$46,760 and further approves a budget amendment to cover the remaining \$30,810 along with the upfit costs from the General Fund fund balance.

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

MOTION CARRIED

D. Resolution 24-42 Playhouse Finances

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Hillebrand, to refer playhouse finances to a special committee made up of council members, staff, community members, and outside experts, to provide recommendations for different funding options.

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

MOTION CARRIED

E. Resolution 24-43 Climate Mobilization Action Plan

Motion to proceed was withdrawn by Sikkenga as was the support by Cabala.

Consensus was that an energy manager was not needed; Cabala wants to see a schedule on how it will get done.

NO ACTION TAKEN

PUBLIC COMMENT

Three students from Mr. Brunson's class at Montague High School introduced themselves for class credit.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

DRAFT