



## **WHITEHALL**

### **CITY COUNCIL**

#### **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Council Chambers

April 8, 2025

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

**ABSENT** None

**ALSO PRESENT** Brenda Bourdon, Nate Geinzer, Zach Szymanski

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Mayor Salter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **Kick-off for City Manager Search**

Nate Geinzer of Double Haul Solutions led the council in developing a profile for the next City Manager.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments were received from Tamara Horne.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Salter adjourned the work session at 5:48 pm

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Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



## WHITEHALL

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers  
April 8, 2025

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

**ABSENT** None

**ALSO PRESENT** Scott Huebler, Brenda Bourdon, Brennen Gorman, Roger Squiers, Brandon Mahoney, Brian Armstrong, Beth Beaman

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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**

#### APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the March 25, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$197,749.93
- C. Communications: 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, Meet Your Treasurer Event, Muskegon County Public Works Meeting Minutes, Walk the Beat Letter

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

Voice Vote: All yeses

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Messages were received from Council members. Brian Armstrong, DPW Director, introduced new DPW employee Chase Switanowski and announced the promotion of Nolan Throne as Crew Leader. Chief Squiers announced the promotion of Brandon Mahoney to Chief effective June 1<sup>st</sup> upon Roger's retirement effective May 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Tamara Horne announced the electronics disposal event. Catchmark is seeking volunteers for NewsNet and SportsNet. Terry Hampel provided updates on Duck Creek, and Kevin Goff expressed support for the Playhouse.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Playhouse Committee Recommendations

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom to ~~approve-accept~~ the Playhouse Committee recommendations as presented.

Tanya Cabala expressed disappointment that the vote was not first scheduled for a work session to allow more thorough discussion, noting the limited time—from Friday to Tuesday—to review recommendations that carried budget implications. She voiced appreciation for the efforts of the Playhouse and staff, and indicated support for some of the recommendations. She emphasized that her original motion to create the committee included addressing the known \$70,000 shortfall, and reiterated at the last meeting the importance of promptly dealing with budget issues. Tanya Cabala also raised concerns about assumptions related to audience growth, projected ticket and beverage sales, and increased rentals. She highlighted the likely need for additional staffing and professional marketing support. Finally, she stated she had expected a strategic plan with measurable goals and metrics, and was concerned that such a plan was not provided.

Brown read three letters opposing city funding for the Playhouse. The letters will be included in the council packet for the record.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

### B. Muskegon Conservation District Proposal

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the Muskegon Conservation District's Proposal to provide technical guidance and consultation for the design and planning of the Tannery Bay Conservation Easement Park project as submitted.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were received from Randy Powers regarding the barking dog ordinance; Kathy Russell, Frank Bednarek, Chris Mahoney, Amber Marks, Gary Kittridge, and Terry Hampel in support of the Playhouse; and Kevin Goff regarding the Hanson Hill Social District.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 7:28 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk