



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers
May 27, 2025

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

ABSENT Debi Hillebrand (excused)

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING – FISCAL YEAR BUDGET 2025/2026

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Holmstrom to open the public hearing at 6:01 pm.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

City Manager Huebler remarked on the recent budget work session, noting that the discussion emphasized fiscal restraint and concluded with a consensus to maintain the proposed budget as is.

John Hanson spoke in favor of keeping police staffing as is; Kathy West spoke in favor of supporting the Playhouse; Dan Hardy spoke in favor of conservative viewpoints for spending; Joe Brightwell spoke in favor of police staffing levels and Kathy Wood encouraged council to think of what are luxuries and what are necessities when it comes to spending.

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Cabala to close the public hearing at 6:28 pm.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – KARA JAEKEL, HEALTHWEST

Kara Jaekel presented the different free training opportunities and programs that are available through HealthWest and encouraged the public to become Psychological First Aid Responders.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the May 13, 2025 Work Session & Council Meeting Minutes; May 19, 2025 Budget Work Session Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$328,449.97
- C. Communications: Scott Brown Email, Central Dispatch Minutes, Tim & June Cooper Letter, Ian Martin Letter, James Rynberg Letter, Kathy Wood Letter, Tom Ziemer Email

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received by Dan Hardy clarifying park area from Cooper letter; Steve Ogden in opposition to Flock cameras; Tamara Horne reporting on electronic recycling event; Amber Marks with a community garden update; and Kathy Wood regarding her water bill.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 25-13 Annual Budget & Millage Levy

Motion by Ziemer, supported by Sikkenga, to separate the millage levy from the budget for a separate vote.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Ziemer, to approve the millage levy for 12.77 mills for General Fund Operating and 3.0 mills for Street Improvements.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Brown to reduce the LDFA allocation to the Playhouse from \$90K to \$40K for FY 25/26.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Sikkenga to allocate \$1,000 to the Community Garden project for FY 25/26.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Brown to allocate \$1,000 for scholarships for up to two Whitehall students for FY 25/26.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Ziemer to allocate \$1,000 for grant writing services at the City Manager's discretion for FY 25/26.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Cabala, Ziemer, Brown, Holmstrom, and Salter;
No – Sikkenga; Absent – Hillebrand

MOTION CARRIED

Cabala requested that we move the energy efficiency items to a work session to identify what can be tackled this year.

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom to accept the fiscal year 2025/2026 budget with the approved amendments.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution 25-14 Utility Rates

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown, to set the sewer rate at \$6.47 per 1,000 gallons; the water rate at \$3.43 per 1,000 gallons; and the non-metered sewer only quarterly charge at \$135.87.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 25-15 Budget Amendments

City Manager Huebler requested it be postponed to the next meeting.

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Sikkenga, to postpone the budget amendment resolution to the next meeting.

Voice vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

D. Resolution 25-16 Special Assessments

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Brown, to approve the placement of the delinquent amounts on the 2025 summer Tax Roll as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

E. Walk the Beat Request

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga, to waive the Food Truck fee for the Walk the Beat event held on July 19, 2025.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received by John Hanson and a student from Montague High School.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk