



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Council Chambers

July 8, 2025

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

ABSENT None

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

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Hunting

City Manager Huebler presented a draft of the amended deer hunting ordinance, which identified city-owned properties that meet the criteria for hunting. These include Funnell Field, Mill Pond, and the Industrial Park. Council Member Sikkenga had anticipated that more properties would qualify but acknowledged that the 150-foot setback requirement limited the available options. A nominal \$10 permit application fee was proposed and will be incorporated into the draft ordinance. There was consensus among the Council to move forward with the proposed changes.

West Colby Naming Rights

Council Member Jeff Holmstrom recommended naming the new West Colby Connector Park in honor of the Miller family, longtime owners of Big John's. No additional comments were offered by the Council.

Tree Tapping

Council Member Holmstrom expressed his desire to prohibit tree tapping on city-owned trees, noting concerns that the syrup collected is not shared with city residents and that the practice may cause harm to the trees. Other members agreed, also citing the potential risk of attracting invasive insects. There was consensus to move forward with prohibiting tree tapping on city trees.

Housing

Mayor Salter expressed interest in exploring options to limit the number of short-term rentals within the city. Council Member Cabala raised the topic of affordable housing, referencing the HUD definition and requesting a visit from the County Housing Director, along with the development of a city land inventory. City Manager Huebler provided an update on the potential development of the Fairlawn property. Ziemer shared an article on short-term rental regulations, and Attorney Meier noted that the City of Muskegon has implemented limits on short-term rentals. Further exploration of these topics is expected at the next work session.

New City Manager Onboarding

City attorney Meier stated that the contract is being developed, but Dan was agreeable to what was in the draft. Consensus was to have him start as soon as possible.

Expanding the Social District

City Attorney Meier explained that the social district can be expanded by resolution and suggested including North Mears Avenue, as the street is already closed during Monday Night Fan Club events and regularly occupied by attendees. The mayor expressed interest in discussing the potential expansion at the next work session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the work session at 5:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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July 8, 2025

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

ABSENT None

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

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 June 24, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes and June 27, 2025 Special Council Meeting Minutes

B. Accounts Payable \$396,848.45

C. Communications: MMRMA Letters

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edd Whalen made a comment regarding taxes and Doug Boardwell provided information on the Cruz'in request.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 25-18 Purchase of DPW Trucks

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the purchase of one 2026 F350 4x2 and one 2026 F350 4x4 truck for the Department of Public Works as adopted in the 2025/2026 budget.

Discussion on having an additional 4x4 instead of a 4x2 led to an amendment of the motion:

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga to amend the resolution by changing the 4x2 to a 4x4 truck and approve the additional cost of \$3,690.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution with Amendment

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution 25-19 International Plow Truck

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Brown to approve the purchase of a 2026 International HV507 SFA 4x2 cab chassis totaling \$236,072.28 which includes the dump box and plow as adopted in the 2025/2026 budget.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Cruz'in Committee – Road Closure Request

Motion by Brown, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the closure of Division Street in the North 100 block and Hanson Street from Division west to Thompson Street from 6 pm to 9 pm on Friday, July 25, 2025 for the Cruz'in burnout area at the bottom of the sledding hill.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk