



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Council Chambers

August 12, 2025

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

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Brenda Bourdon, Dan Tavernier, Will Meier

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Salter reviewed the list of topics to be discussed with brief comments at the start of the meeting.

Deer Hunting

The discussion on deer hunting addressed safety and liability concerns. Council Member Holmstrom noted that hunters would be positioned in elevated stands, shooting downward, and following setback requirements outlined in the ordinance. The Council reached consensus in favor of using a lottery system to select applicants, with an associated application fee.

Live Streaming Council Meetings

Council reached consensus to renew the contract with CatchMark for livestreaming council meetings. Some members expressed interest in exploring improvements, including a direct connection instead of Wi-Fi and integrating sound into the recording. Due to security protocols, Ethernet connection has not been possible. The action item will be added to the council meeting agenda under Old Business.

Drinking Fountain

The White Lake Snow Farmers requested to install a drinking fountain near the Chamber building by the bike trail and sought financial support. Council supported the project but asked the group to pursue fundraising before committing city funds. The city will cover installation and water connection costs.

Tree Tapping

City Ordinance §57.05(B) prohibits damaging or destroying any city-owned tree. While it does not specifically address tapping trees, it is considered sufficient to prohibit the practice. No further action was requested.

Expanding the Social District

After discussing the difference between the social district boundary and the common area, Council reached consensus to include North Mears Avenue to accommodate potential road closures, specifically for the Monday Night Fan Club event, as well as the pocket park and sidewalks adjacent to and across from drinking establishments. A resolution to add these areas to the common area will be presented at the next meeting.

Gee Park Walkway

The Zoning Board of Appeals asked Council to reconsider vacating the east portion of the Gee Park walkway, which divides an adjacent property where a resident plans to build a garage. The ZBA approved the variance request, but maintenance and upkeep were noted as considerations if the walkway remains. Vacating would require before-and-after surveys for all ten adjacent lots, with property owners acquiring three feet of the right-of-way. Council requested more information on the requirements to vacate the walkway and the cost of surveys before proceeding.

To be address at a future work session:

- Recreational Vehicle Parking
- Camping
- Short-term Rentals
- Outdoor Dining

Informational Items

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Elliott provided comment on Alyssa Seaver; Meredith Kuiper spoke on 1st Street closure approval; Kevin Goff spoke on deer hunting; Cathy Russell spoke on Social District signage.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the work session at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



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ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Brenda Bourdon, Dan Tavernier, Will Meier, Brandon Mahoney

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

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED AGENDA

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Cabala to approve the agenda with the addition of the CatchMark Live Streaming agreement under Old Business.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the July 22, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$539,688.18
- C. Communications: BLT Minutes, Information Report – Eagles, White Lake Chamber Thank You

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

Christina Normandin spoke regarding City Manager contact info; Cathy Russell commented on the amazing turnout and talent of shows at the Playhouse.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 25-20 Livestreaming

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the three-year renewal agreement for CatchMark Livestreaming services with no rate increase.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 25-22 Signatures

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown to approve removing Seaver and Huebler as authorized signatories and adding Dan Tavernier as an authorized signatory for banking and financial transactions.

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

B. Resolution 25-23 Poverty Exemption Updated Policy

Motion by Brown, seconded by Hillebrand to approve updated Poverty Exemption Policy as presented.

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

C. Access Agreement – White Lake Landfill

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Holmstrom to approve the Access Agreement between the city and White Lake Landfill to allow for collecting and performing groundwater and/or surface water sampling according to the EGLE approved work plan.

Voice Vote: All yeses **MOTION CARRIED**

D. Tag Day Request – Whitehall Music Boosters

Motion by Brown, seconded by Holmstrom to approve the tag day request from the Whitehall Music Boosters for September 20, 2025.

Voice Vote: All yeses **MOTION CARRIED**

E. Road Closure Request – American Legion Fundraising Event

Motion by Sikkenga, seconded by Hillebrand to approve the road closure request for Warner St. from E. Colby to E. Spring Street for Friday, September 26, 2025 from 4:30 pm to 11:30 pm.

Voice Vote: 6 – yes; 1 – no, Brown; 0 – absent **MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Becks spoke on the Community Garden, outdoor dining, and short-term rentals.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

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