



**WHITEHALL
CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Council Chambers
September 9, 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

Deer Management Ordinance

Council Member Holmstrom stated that the updates to the deer management ordinance looked good, including the maps provided. The Council discussed the process for conducting the lottery and how hunters would be assigned to designated time periods. The item was moved forward for consideration at the regular Council meeting.

Short-Term Rental

The Mayor recommended that Council members review the summary provided by the City Attorney, which outlined different guidelines from other municipalities regarding short-term rental ordinances. Council Member Hillebrand asked what problem the ordinance would be addressing. Other members noted that having data on the number of short-term rentals in the community would be helpful in determining the scope of the issue. The matter will be addressed at a future meeting.

Election Cycle

City Manager Dan Tavernier suggested investigating the possibility of changing the City's general election from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years in order to save money and staff time. Council Member Sikkenga expressed support for the potential cost savings and noted that voter turnout is generally higher in even years during state and federal elections. Council Member Hillebrand asked what other issues are addressed during those elections and who covers the cost and indicated interest in hearing more information. Most members appeared in favor of exploring the change. The City Manager stated that public input would be sought before any decision is made. The matter will be brought back for discussion at a future meeting.

Informational Items

It was noted that recreational vehicle parking and camping were not addressed at this work session. Council Member Holmstrom commented that on-street parking of recreational vehicles could be managed by limiting the length of time they are permitted. Council Member Brown noted that overgrowth along the alleys makes them difficult to maneuver. Public access based on the agreement with Tannery Bay was also discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Rowe commented on the public access at Tannery Bay; Mark Neinhouse commented on traffic noise on Warner Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the work session at 5:57 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 6:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Ziemer to approve the agenda.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the August 26, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$386,478.78
- C. Communications: Arts Council Thank You; Homecoming Parade, Planning Commission Minutes, Senior Center 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

Kim Cyr provided comment and Tommy Foster thanked Council with a song.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 25-26 Sidewalk Snowblower

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Sikkenga to approve the purchase of the recommended sidewalk snowblower. After questions were raised about the specifications, the motion and support were withdrawn.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

B. Ordinance 25-01 Deer Management

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Sikkenga to approve deer management ordinance amendments as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Fan Club Request

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Holmstrom to approve the Fan Club request to close N. Mears Ave for Monday nights starting Memorial Day through Labor Day for the Summer of 2026 from 7 pm – 10 pm.

Voice Vote: 6 yeases; 1 no, Brown; 0 absent

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Rowe and Christina Normandin provided public comment.

CLOSED SESSION – to Discuss material exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege, MCL 15.243(1)(g), pursuant to MCL Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown to move into closed session to discuss material exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege, MCL 15.243(1)(g), pursuant to MCL Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

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

MOTION CARRIED

After the conclusion of the closed session, the council moved into open session at 7:48 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Salter adjourned the Council Meeting at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk