



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Council Chambers

December 9, 2025

PRESENT Scott Brown, Tanya Cabala, Debi Hillebrand, Jeff Holmstrom, Bryan Mahan, and Tom Ziemer

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Brenda Bourdon, Dan Tavernier, Will Meier

Mayor Ziemer called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Educational Info Board Proposal

City Manager Tavernier provided background on a proposal submitted by Leanne Digan as part of her capstone project through the MSU Extension Conservation Stewardship Program. The proposal involves installing an all-weather informational board adjacent to the path along the White River near the fishing bridge in Covell Park to educate visitors about the area's natural features. Ms. Digan requested \$600–\$800 in City funding for the project. Council Member Holmstrom suggested exploring Community Foundation funding designated for Covell Park as a potential funding source. Council would like to see a mockup before moving forward.

Senior Millage Allocation Update

Council Member Cabala provided a recap of the Advisory Board's March decision and the work completed by the committee. The Mayor commented on the reduction in funding to the VAC over the years, noting that many residents use the VAC. Council Member Holmstrom expressed the view that existing tax payments to the schools should already cover use of the VAC. Council Member Hillebrand asked whether the committee had established a process for determining senior fund allocations, and Council Member Squiers suggested treating the funds as a grant program, with interested parties submitting proposals outlining intended use. No definitive allocation recommendation was made, other than Council Member Cabala's suggestion to consider both the most recent March recommendations from the Advisory Board. Council retains final responsibility for determining the allocation.

West Colby Promenade

City Manager Tavernier emphasized the importance of delivering the Council's desired vision for the West Colby Promenade. Jason Washler from Prein & Newhoff reviewed the plans. Two Council members (Mahan & Holmstrom), after discussions with staff, expressed support for reinstating the bathrooms, noting they are frequently used as changing areas for the splash pad. Council indicated a preference for a roofed bathroom structure (not flat), ideally in blue. Council also requested consideration of a shade feature in the area intended for performances, but a less expensive alternative to the original shade sail.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ziemer adjourned the work session at 5:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers

December 9, 2025

PRESENT Scott Brown, Tanya Cabala, Debra Hillebrand, Jeff Holmstrom, Bryan Mahan and Tom Ziemer

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Brenda Bourdon, Dan Tavernier, Will Meier

Mayor Ziemer called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED AGENDA

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown to approve the amended agenda adding the West Colby Promenade under old business.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the November 25, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$244,987.80
- C. Communications: November Revenue/Expenditure Report; November Cash & Investment Accounts, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Squiers, seconded by Hillebrand 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.

Motion by Hillebrand, seconded by Cabala to excuse Roger Squiers from the December 23rd council meeting. All yeses.

Motion by Squiers, seconded by Hillebrand to excuse Bryan Mahan from the December 23rd and February 10th council meetings. All yeses.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Cyr shared a press release on the Muskegon Airport.

OLD BUSINESS

West Colby Promenade

Motion by Mahan, seconded by Hillebrand to include a bathroom with a peaked roof.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Hillebrand, seconded by Mahan to include an alternative shading option for the flat stage space.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 25-40 Authorized Signatories for MERs

Motion by Hillebrand, seconded by Squiers to approve the City Manager to sign official documents for the Municipal Employees Retirement System

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. MERs Participating Agreements

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown to approve the MERs 457 Participation Agreement to allow for employee payroll deductions for Roth IRAs and to approve revised language for the MERs Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement to allow for the City Manager to opt-out of the program.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 25-41 Lot Split

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown to re-approve a lot split request from 2020 changing two north-south oriented parcels into two east-west oriented parcels: White Lake Fire Authority 6.51 acres; City of Whitehall 3.49 acres.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ziemer adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

DRAFT