



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers

January 27, 2026

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 6:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED AGENDA

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Squiers to approve the amended agenda.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – MARC FREDRICKSON, MDOT

Marc Fredrickson from MDOT provided updates on the White Lake Drive Bridge and White River Bridge projects and answered questions from the public and council.

PUBLIC HEARING – Application for Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate

Motion by Squiers, seconded by Holmstrom, to open the public hearing at 6:41 p.m.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

Jeremy Garcia provided an overview of the proposed transformation of the former Lake Land Inn, including the addition of amenities and themed getaway rooms intended to support longer stays. He noted that one of the rooms will be ADA accessible.

Cathy Russell expressed support for the project, commending the Garcias for including an ADA-accessible room and stating that the overall plan is positive.

Frank Hollister commented on the importance of ADA accessibility and encouraged others to be mindful of incorporating ADA accommodations.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Cabala to close the public hearing at 6:49 pm.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the January 13, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes with amendments
- B. Accounts Payable \$210,747.37
- C. Communications: None

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Mahan 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 Mahan, to excuse Roger Squiers from the February 10th and 24th council meetings.

Voice Vote: All yeses.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Billie provided public comment regarding the White Lake Association.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Millage Allocation – after discussion during the messages from council, it was suggested to add the senior millage allocation to old business.

Motion by Squiers, seconded by Hillebrand to allocate the city’s senior millage allocation of \$17,245 as follows: \$9,000 to the VAC; \$3,445 to AgeWell; and \$4,800 to the Senior Center.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Sports n’ Shorts

Motion by Brown, seconded by Squiers to approve the allocation of \$4,500 from the current fiscal year budget to support the Sports n’ Shorts program.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution 26-06 MACC Playhouse Grant

Motion by Cabala, seconded by Mahan to authorize the Playhouse grant application to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council in the amount of \$44,320 to support the 2026 Summer Theatre Festival and related initiatives with a local match of \$11,080 funded by ticket sales and private donations.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Resolution 26-07 Commercial Rehab Exemption Certificate Application

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Hillebrand, to approve the application for a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for the property located at 1002 Colby Street subject to the following terms: 10-year period beginning December 31, 2026; applied to the new assessed value attributable to the qualified rehabilitation improvements; application shall comply with all requirements.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ziemer adjourned the Council Meeting at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk

DRAFT