

WHITEHALL
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Council Chambers

September 8, 2026

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

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Brenda Bourdon, Dan Tavernier, Will Meier

Mayor Ziemer called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Digital Sign Proposals

City Manager Tavernier reviewed the digital sign proposals and requested direction from Council. Council reached consensus to proceed with Option 1 from Postema Signs, with the upgrade to an 8mm LED display rather than the 10mm display. Council Member Hillebrand requested that Council revisit the City's sign ordinance.

Gee Park Playground Equipment

City Manager Tavernier reviewed the proposal from Midstates Recreation for playground equipment at Gee Park, as identified in the Capital Improvement Plan. Council Member Holmstrom shared the results of his research and recommendations from playground equipment experts regarding alternative equipment options. Following discussion, Council Member Cabala requested that resident input be gathered through a survey distributed to residents in the surrounding area.

Strategic Plan

City Manager Tavernier reviewed revisions to the Strategic Goals document and requested Council's input. Following discussion and comments, Council reached consensus that the document was acceptable as presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Hardy provided comments on Gee Park

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk



WHITEHALL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers
September 8, 2026

PRESENT Scott Brown, Tanya Cabala, Debra Hillebrand, Jeff Holmstrom, Bryan Mahan, Roger Squiers, 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 AGENDA

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

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the August 25, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Accounts Payable \$821,235.20
- C. Communications: Arts Council Thank You, Chamber Summary of Expenditures (TIFA)

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown to approve the Consent Agenda.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY MANAGER

Messages were received from the City Manager, Council Members, and Mayor. Suggestions were made for work session topics: term limits consistency and e-bikes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Maritime Festival 2027 Request

Motion by Holmstrom, seconded by Brown, to approve the requested dates of August 5-7, 2027, reserving Goodrich Park and the Marina.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. Façade Grant Application – Ryan Hall

Motion by Mahan, seconded by Squiers, to approve the grant request of \$6,000 to Ryan Hall for milling and repaving parking lot for Whitehall Cottages, 305 E. Colby Street.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Digital Sign Proposals

Motion by Squiers, seconded by Mahan, to approve Option 1 of Postema Signs' proposal, including the optional upgrade to the 8mm full-color display, for a total of \$41,390.00.

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

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lillian Morningstar provided comment on the Senior Center.

CLOSED SESSION – City Manager Annual Personnel Performance Evaluation

Pursuant to MCL 15.268(a)), Michigan Open Meetings Act

Motion by Squiers, seconded by Holmstrom, to convene into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to consider the periodic personnel evaluation of the City Manager, as requested by the City Manager.

Motion by Hillebrand, seconded by Squiers, to reconvene into open session.

Voice Vote: All yeses

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ziemer adjourned the Council Meeting at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bourdon, City Clerk