

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 2, 2018

Jim Graham, Council President, called the January 2, 2018 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Rodriguez.

President Graham reviewed the agenda and confirmed who would handle the various required motions this evening.

President Graham said there will be an amendment on Ordinance 116-2017 to add the word monument.

Director Woodruff explained Resolution No. 002-2018 and asked for it to be adopted this evening. He said they have reached an agreement with Eugene Fletcher to acquire the property at 51-91 South. Hamilton Road. The letter of intent would authorize the city to move forward on finalizing the terms of the purchase contract. Per city charter acquisition of real estate is required to go through three readings with no emergency. Once the ordinance is adopted it will allow the city to formally enter into the contract at the end of February.

Auditor Miller said that the courts have put a stay on the state regarding Ordinance 122-2017. The next hearing is February 12, 2018, so he will be asking next council meeting to table this ordinance. Next week he will have new legislation to update the City Income Tax definitions.

President Graham reviewed the names of the people that council suggested for the City Charter Review Committee. He also reported the new chairs and members of the council committees. He asked council clerk to send a revised list to council this week.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Freimark, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2018.

Jim Graham, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 2, 2018

Council President Graham called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

At President Graham's request, everyone rose for a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by those assembled.

On roll call by the clerk, the following members of council were present:

Lori Elmore
Karen Conison
Wes Kantor
JoAnna Heck
Larry Morrison
Robert Bailey

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Mr. Bailey moved to excuse the absent members and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative and Mr. Rodriguez was excused.

POLL PUBLIC

There were no further comments for poll public.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Kim Maggard – she had no official report.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – his official report for the month of December, there were 190 cases in Mayor's Court; 48 were Whitehall residents and 19 were of a criminal nature. The year-to-date numbers were 2662 cases were prosecuted in Whitehall Mayors Court in 2017; 760, or 28% were Whitehall residents. Of those 28%, only 12% were of a criminal nature. He reiterated that the reason why he gives these numbers are so when we are out in the community we can safely say that Whitehall is a safe place to live and the data doesn't lie.

He reported that the Legal Rams are going to Franklin County Municipal Court January 26 to compete in the Ohio Mock Trial competition. They recently had a scrimmage at Pickerington High School and they let Pickerington know that they are geared up and ready to roll. It is open to the public and he urged everyone to come and cheer on the Rams.

President Graham asked what types of cases are prosecuted in Mayors Court.

Attorney Bivens said he looks at criminal cases in many different ratios. Crimes against property, crimes against persons and victimless crimes. The numbers of crimes against property and crimes against persons, neighbor to neighbor in the City of Whitehall that number is 2% to 3%. When you open the door to OVI's and traffic cases, it is reflected in the data because the majority of our cases are traffic offences. He applauds the police department because you can't drive through Whitehall without being caught.

City Auditor Dan Miller – he had no official report.

Director of Public Service and Development Zach Woodruff – he had no official report. He said he would like express his condolences to Councilman Rodriguez on the loss of his father. He asked everyone to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers.

Treasurer Steve Quincel – he had no official report.

President Graham – advised that there have been no Officials' Reports along with Communications, Petitions and Claims filed in the Council Office since the last meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 116-2017

AMENDING SECTION 1127.02 TITLED SIGN STANDARDS BY ZONE IN THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL TO UPDATE THE INDUSTRIAL SIGN CODE.

President Graham opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 116-2017 at 7:07 p.m.

Joe Ryan, 360 S. Yearling Rd. He said they are trying to be proactive and there are some things in the sign code that needs to be updated or changed. In the Industrial Sign Code, which is along Schofield Drive and Poth Road, you can have a sign up to 45 feet tall. Schofield Drive and Poth Road. are similar to Hamilton Road, Broad Street and Main Street, which are under the overlay. The change would be if you are in the I1 district, which is the south side of Poth Road and Schofield Drive you can have a 6 feet tall ground sign. In the I2 district, which is the north side of Poth Road and has some larger buildings, you can have a 15 feet monument sign. They feel this is more appropriate for the look they are trying to convey for the city and also to be fair to the business owners.

President Graham said he is in total agreement with this change.

After confirming there were no additional proponents and no opponents, President Graham closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

VERIFICATION OF COPIES

President Graham requested a roll call on whether each member of council received a copy of each item of legislation listed on the agenda prior to the meeting, including any add-on legislation. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative.

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 116-2017 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AMENDING SECTION 1127.02 TITLED SIGN STANDARDS BY ZONE IN THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL TO UPDATE THE INDUSTRIAL SIGN CODE.”

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to amend Ordinance No. 116-2017 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 116-2017 was amended.

Mr. Kantor then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 116-2017 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 116-2017 was adopted.

SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 122-2017 was read by title only by President Graham:

“TO AMEND THE CITY INCOME TAX CODE TO ADOPT SECTIONS 718.80 THROUGH 718.95 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 001-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY CONVEYANCE DOCUMENTS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FROM H. EUGENE FLETCHER LOCATED AT 51-91 S. HAMILTON ROAD, WHITEHALL, OHIO.”

RESOLUTION NO. 001-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“RESOLVING TO APPROVE “THEN AND NOW” CERTIFICATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 001-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative and the rules were suspended.

Mr. Bailey then moved to adopt Resolution No. 001-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 001-2018 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LETTER OF INTENT WITH PROPERTY OWNER H. EUGENE FLETCHER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 51-91 S. HAMILTON ROAD, WHITEHALL, OHIO.”

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 002-2018 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative and the rules were suspended.

Ms. Morrison then moved to adopt Resolution No. 002-2018 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 002-2018 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC

Gerald Dixon, 3877 Doney Street. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He welcomed the new council members, Ms. Heck and Ms. Elmore and wished them well in their endeavors. He reminded them that they are here to represent the citizens of the city and the mayor represents the city. He congratulated Ms. Elmore for being the first African American woman on council. He congratulated Ms. Heck on honoring the Heck name by being elected on council.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD

Ms. King said that Chief Crispin is having his 3rd Safer Whitehall Town Hall on Thursday, February 13, at 6:00 p.m. at the New Life Church.

Ms. Conison said Easter Egg Hunt is March 24, 2018. January 27, 2018 at the Whitehall basketball game they will be honoring the Hall of Fame.

POLL COUNCIL

Ms. Elmore said Happy New Year and thanked everyone for coming out in the cold weather. She thanked Mr. Dixon for his comments and to all the people that elected her to this office. She said she will do what she was sent here to do which is to represent the people. She said this is an opportunity to champion some ideas and issues and they may stumble sometimes. She urged everyone to come with ideas and thoughts and not just criticism. She is thankful for this opportunity and being able to serve.

Ms. Conison said Happy New Year and stay safe and warm.

Mr. Kantor thanked everyone coming out in the cold weather and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He welcomed Ms. Heck and Ms. Elmore. He thanked Attorney Bivens for the Mayors Court data provides. He thanked Mr. Ryan for the great job he does.

Ms. Heck thanked everyone for coming and thanked Mr. Dixon for his kind words. She said she is looking forward to working with this team and to show people what she can do.

Mr. Morrison wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for coming. He said he is looking forward to working with Ms. Elmore and Ms. Heck. With the team they have and the administration he thinks they will have a very good year.

Mr. Bailey thanked everyone for coming out on this cold night. He asked everyone to keep Mr. Rodriguez and his family in their prayers over the loss of his father. He thanked Ms. Elmore for her comments. He stated that council is a team and they function as a team and that is what makes this work. Everyone on council serves the citizens and they do not have their own agenda.

President Graham welcomed the two newly elected council members. He is looking forward to working with everyone for the next two years. He complimented the street crew on what a great job the city did over the holidays with the snow and the cold weather.

Having nothing further, Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Freimark, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2018.

Jim Graham, Council President