

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2018

Jim Graham, Council President, called the January 16, 2018 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Morison.

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

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 16, 2018

Council President Graham called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

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

Councilman Rodriguez was sworn in for his new term as council member for Ward 1.

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

Karen Conison
Wes Kantor
JoAnna Heck
Robert Bailey
Chris Rodriguez
Lori Elmore

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Conison moved to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2017 and January 2, 2018 agenda and regular meetings. Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

POLL PUBLIC

There were no further comments for poll public.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Bailey reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Elmore reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson Rodriguez reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – President Graham reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services – Chairperson Heck reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Chairperson Conison reported they met last week and their minutes are on file. She said Chief Crispen gave her some updates from the police department. They had a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and have established an anti-theft program for businesses. He reported that in 2017 burglaries and robberies were at a 20 year low and violent crime was the lowest since 2011. Officer Eric Runyon was sworn in last week and the next town hall meeting will be February 15. They will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation – Councilman Kantor reported that they met last week and their minutes are on file. They will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Kim Maggard – she asked for favorable consideration for Ordinance Nos. 003-2018, 004-2018 and 005-2018. She reported that HB 371 was voted out of the house today. HB 371 is the bill that will stop any property tax accrual or increase on residential properties that are to be developed. Every public sector is against this because it takes tax dollars away from cities and school districts. As a municipality it takes away local control which seems to be the theme in the state house. Without any permission or guidance they can put freezes on increases on land.

She explained that the county commissioners are very concerned about poverty rates in Franklin County. The county has grown in economic development, but poverty rates are not going down. As a member of the regional policy round table she is asking to focus on food and security for the next policy agenda that will come up in 2019/2020. The city has promised to put in \$10,000 for the Broad Street corridor. This is a county wide project and it will help study transportation along with assisting in choosing businesses that meet the need for the residents. We want to have stores that are accessible to our residents and that are not too expensive.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – he complimented the mayor on her progressive stand on the city. He reiterated that the county commissioners are very concerned about poverty rates. Mayor Maggard has been so concerned about it; she sought out and received \$736,000 that is going towards raising the quality of life for Whitehall residents.

He is going to a conference in Tennessee hosted by the National Association of Counties. He felt this would be a good conference because we have been given the first and only grant to facilitate a drug docket in Mayor's Court. There are many counties looking for solutions for the opioid epidemic and he is going to share what Whitehall is working on. There are two to five million people in county jails for drug and alcohol additions. Whitehall should be commended for looking for a strategic approach to handle this problem.

He reported that his office is actively involved in nuisance abatement with respect to drug and alcohol problems as well as violence in the homes. They have successfully litigated five cases and we were able to abatement the nuisance in private property. He asked council to let the residents know to call his office if they have a problem with a neighbor that is related to drug, alcohol or violence. If it meets the nuisance abatement criteria they will file charges, even if that person is the owner of the home. That is one of the tools we are using to actively engage and make sure our neighborhoods are safe.

The Legal Rams have been moved to Licking County Municipal Court on January 26 to compete in the Ohio Mock Trial competition, first trial is 9:30 a.m. and second trial is 1:30 p.m.

City Auditor Dan Miller – he reported that he went to a meeting on TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program. They gave an detailed introduction to the program and showed them how to administer the grant. He asked for favorable consideration for Ordinance No. 004-2018.

Director of Public Service and Development Zach Woodruff – not present

Treasurer Steve Quincel – he had no official report.

President Graham – advised that the following Officials' Reports have been filed in the Council Office since the last meeting: The Auditor's Expense Report for December 2017; The Auditor's Bank Report for December 2017; The Auditor's Statement of Cash Position Report for December 2017; The Auditor's Revenue Report for December 2017; Treasurer's Investment Report for December 2017; Treasurer's Activity Report for December 2017; and Treasurer's Fund Reconciliation Report for December 2017; and The Mayors Report to Council for December 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Minutes from the December 6, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
2. Agenda for the January 10, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

THIRD 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.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to table Ordinance No. 122-2017 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 122-2017 was tabled.

SECOND 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.”

FIRST READING:

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

“AMENDING SECTION 184.3 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED “DEFINITIONS” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

ORDINANCE NO. 003-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AMENDING 161.11(C)1 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 003-2018 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 Ordinance No. 003-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 003-2018 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 004-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF THE TANF (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES) PROGRAM GRANT FUND (815), APPROPRIATING SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE AND 34/100 DOLLARS (\$736,783.34) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE TANF PROGRAM GRANT FUND (815) TO THE TANF PROGRAM GRANT EXPENSE ACCOUNT (815.000.50000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 004-2018 and Mr. Kantor 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. Elmore then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 004-2018 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 004-2018 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 005-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$44,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE TRANSFER EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101-950-59999); APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$44,000.00) FROM THE TRANSFER EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.950.59999) TO THE ACCRUED BENEFITS RESERVE FUND (505) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 005-2018 and Mr. Rodriguez 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 Ordinance No. 005-2018 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 005-2018 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2018 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. 003-2018 and Ms. Heck 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. 003-2018 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 003-2018 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2018 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. 004-2018 and Mr. Kantor 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. 004-2018 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 004-2018 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 005-2018 and Mr. Bailey 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. Elmore then moved to adopt Resolution No. 005-2018 and Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 005-2018 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC

Gerald Dixon, 3877 Doney Street. He congratulated Mr. Rodriguez on his swearing in. He applauds all the efforts the City Attorney and the Mayor are doing to make things better. He is concerned for the rights of the people regarding nuisance abatement and has asked Attorney Bivens to hear more about that issue.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD

Mayor Maggard said that on February 15 at 6:00 p.m., there will be a Safer Community Meeting hosted by the Chief of Police at the New Life Church on Yearling Road.

Mr. Conison said that January 26 is the Education Foundation dinner. On January 27 during the Whitehall Basketball game they will be honoring the new hall of fame, which includes Auditor Miller, Van Gregg and Judge Julie Lynch.

Mayor Maggard said they will be honoring Council woman JoAnna Heck, School Resource Officer Mark Showater, Parks and Rec. Commission member Katie Quincel and Lenore Miller from the Senior Center at the Education Foundation Dinner.

POLL COUNCIL

Ms. Conison thanked everyone for coming and hopes to see everyone in a couple weeks.

Mr. Kantor had no comment.

Ms. Heck thanked everyone for coming. She thanked the service crew for doing such a great job on the streets and thanked the first responders who have to go out in this weather.

Mr. Bailey thanked everyone for coming out on this cold night.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked everyone for coming. He said he is astounded by the state legislators that work on these house bills. They have forgotten where they came from and how hard it is for these small cities to find money sources. He is asking everyone to reach out to these legislators. He stated: "Shame on them".

Ms. Elmore congratulated everyone that is being recognized. She thanked the elected officers and is looking forward to working together in the future. She said it obligatory to all of us to reach out to our state legislators and tell them the impact these house bills could have on our city. She suggested using Facebook and to highlight the legislators that are backing this bad legislation.

President Graham said that whenever there is tax relief from the federal or state government, the cities usually have to pay. It amazes him that at the end the little guy has to pay the bills if we want roads, police, mail delivered, homeland security, etc.

Having nothing further, Mr. Rodriguez moved to adjourn and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Freimark, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2018.

Jim Graham, Council President