

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter ordered the April 9, 2024 agenda meeting at 6:30 p.m. All members were present except for Councilor Elmore

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

Auditor Quincel explained why he is requesting that Ordinances 024-2024, 025-2024, 026-2024, and 027-2024 be passed on first readings.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: April 16, 2024

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – April 9, 2024

President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

At President Potter's request, everyone rose for a moment of silence. Those assembled then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Jo Anna Heck
Amy Smith
Amy Harcar
Gerald Dixon
Devin Brown
Larry Morrison

Mr. Dixon moved to excuse the absent member and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All members responded in the affirmative on a roll call vote and Councilor Elmore was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Smith moved to approve the March 20, 2024 Agenda and Regular Meeting Minutes and the March 26, 2024 Agenda and Committee Meeting Minutes. Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All members responded in the affirmative on a roll call vote, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Lorena Lacey presented the following Martin Luther King Scholarship applicants with a Computer or Laptop. Laptops went to Scholarship winners Brithany Disla and Temesgen Tadesse. Computers went to Scholarship applicants Georgia Applin, Biniyam Beyene, Maria Cabanas Flores, Ileana Cisneros, Okokon Ita, Andre Jackson, Yero Roro, and Ar'Yanah Wigginton.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Morrison reported that the committee met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and their minutes are on file. They will meet again in two weeks, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Harcar reported that the committee met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and their minutes are on file. They will meet again in two weeks, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson Smith reported that the committee met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and their minutes are on file. They will meet again in two weeks, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – Chairperson Dixon reported that the committee met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and their minutes are on file. They will meet again in two weeks, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services – Chairperson Brown reported that the committee met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and their minutes are on file. They will meet again in two weeks, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Chairperson Morrison reported that the committee met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and their minutes are on file. They will meet again in two weeks, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Heck reported that the committee met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and their minutes are on file. They will meet again in two weeks, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Bivens told how the Martin Luther King Scholarship began. He and Councilperson Elmore are elated to see how much the scholarship has grown and to see all of the young people who are still participating. He and Superintendent Wells have been collaborating and just to see them there tonight. Not only are they their wildest dreams, but also those of their parents and grandparents. They are the wildest dream of Martin Luther King Jr, who could never have imagined or thought about the day that young people like them not only come to school but matriculate through high school to be successful and to have all of the testimonies they are going to have as it relates to going to college. He congratulated them again and he is honored to do it. He will do it again next year.

At this time, there was a brief recess to allow the students and families to gather their computers and exit the Council Chambers.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Michael T. Bivens – tomorrow officially marks the one-hundredth day. He understands that some of them will not be able to attend as they have other commitments. He thanked his staff and everyone for getting it together. He is excited. He congratulated Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Brady and Cory Ollie for a fantastic event at John Bishop Park. The Solar Eclipse Party was well attended. He thinks the community was well impressed by the love and camaraderie but then the eclipse was just the icing on the cake.

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus –thanked the Mayor and Council President for last Tuesday during the severe weather forecast for taking the precautions to keep everyone safe. Last week, he and Kylie Keitch spent the afternoons with the Police Department updating them on some training. It is always good to see the officers when they are not in the field having to make decisions. He asked for favorable consideration on Resolution 009-2024.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – he is seeing some decent activity within the Tax department. Income tax revenue is up for this point in the year from last year. They are up a little over twelve percent. That has to be tempered with the income tax refunds that are being paid to folks who work remotely and those are also up by one-hundred and one percent. They have paid out almost one million dollars in income tax revenue so far this year. He asked for favorable consideration on Ordinances 024-2024, 025-2024, 026-2024 and 027-2024.

Director of Public Service Casey Thomas –is excited to look at the past one hundred days and to see what is coming. It is a great way for everyone to get out there and network. She asked for favorable consideration on Ordinances 016-2024, 017-2024 and 021-2024.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present.

Treasurer Shaquille Alexander – was not present

President Potter – advised there have been no Official Reports filed in the Council office since the last meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

No Communications, Petitions, and Claims have been filed in the Council office since the last meeting.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

VERIFICATION OF COPIES:

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

THIRD READING:

There was no legislation for the third reading.

SECOND READING:

There was no legislation for the second reading.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 016-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 351.13-TITLED “LIMITATION OF PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS “OF THE PARKING GENERALLY CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 016-2024 and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 016-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 016-2024 and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 016-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 017-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 351.14-TITLED “PARKING OF TRAILERS AND SEMITRAILERS“OF THE PARKING GENERALLY CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 017-2024 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 017-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 017-2024 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 017-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 018-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 903.31 TITLED “PARKING PROHIBITED ON FRONT LANDSCAPED AREAS “OF THE STREETS AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 019-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 1109.04-TITLED “COMMUNITY GARDENS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE” OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance 019-2024 has been referred to the Whitehall Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 020-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING CHAPTER 1113 TITLED “LANDSCAPING” CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY IMPLEMENTING A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance 020-2024 has been referred to the Whitehall Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 021-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING PART SEVEN OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 767 “TITLED “OUTDOOR DISPLAY, STORAGE AND SALES OF MERCHANDISE” TO THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 021-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 021-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 021-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 021-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING CHAPTER 1115 TITLED “OUTDOOR LIGHTING” CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance 022-2024 has been referred to the Whitehall Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 023-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING CHAPTER 1111-TITLED “PARKING, LOADING AND DRIVE THRUS “OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance 023-2024 has been referred to the Whitehall Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 024-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

MAKING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO AND 27/100 DOLLARS (\$67,122.27) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND (401) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 024-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion.

Auditor Quincel explained this is a loan re-payment on work that was done on the energy upgrades at City Hall, the Police and Fire Department buildings and at the Service Department Garage.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 024-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Morrison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 024-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 024-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 025-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FOUR THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANTS FUND (221) TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANTS RETENTION INCENTIVE ACCOUNT (221.000.50040) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 025-2024 and Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Auditor Quincel explained they had received a grant for retention incentive for the Fire Department. One individual left the city's employment so they now need to return the monies.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 025-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Morrison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 025-2024 and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 025-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT AND 60/100 DOLLARS (\$61,228.60) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE ENERGY PROJECT FUND (810) TO THE ENERGY PROJECT FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (810.000.50000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 026-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion.

Auditor Quincel explained this is another loan repayment that is paid from property tax settlements. Money was received from Franklin County last week and now the bill is coming due.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 026-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Morrison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 026-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 026-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 027-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

RECLASSIFYING A FUND ADVANCE AS A FUND TRANSFER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 027-2024 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion.

Auditor Quincel explained that in 2022 an ordinance advanced monies from the General Fund to the Technology Fund. The Auditors informed him that he had missed on when he cleaned the others up at the end of 2023. They are simply making the advance a transfer, as the likelihood of the 314 Fund having thirty-five grand to advance back to the General Fund is highly unlikely.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 027-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Morrison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 027-2024 and Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 027-2024 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WHITEHALL TO JOIN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS IN A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE STATE OF OHIO TO UPHOLD THE HOME RULE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY TO PURSUE AND ENFORCE TOBACCO REGULATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 009-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Heck, Yes; Smith, Yes; Harcar, Yes; Dixon, Yes; Brown, Yes; Morrison, Yes; and the rules on Resolution No. 009-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt Resolution No. 009-2024 and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Heck, Yes; Smith, Yes; Harcar, Yes; Dixon, No; Brown, Yes; Morrison, Yes; and Resolution No. 009-2024 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC:

Joy Bivens, 4985 Doral Avenue said there is a twenty thousand dollar scholarship for high school seniors in Franklin County. They will distribute five vouchers, five thousand dollars a year over four years for college and technical schools. It is a humankind scholarship. For those watching and those who have students and young people in your universe under your influence, please go to the Columbus Foundation, look for the Humankind Scholarship, and have them apply.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

April 27 is the Get Out and Learn Program. You can try hockey free. Clinic #1 begins at noon and Clinic #2 begins at 12:45 pm. Register at: www.bluejackets.com/whitehallgoal.

Whitehall YMCA has their Healthy Kids Day on April 20 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Heck thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. She thanked Joy for mentioning the scholarship as she thinks it is important to get all the resources possible to our youth so they can have the future they deserve. Congratulations to the winners. She appreciated the presentation as she attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Breakfast.

Chairperson Smith thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. She congratulated the students who attended earlier. She told Mr. Bivens that he was their wildest dream. That hit her today as she has had a hard day with students. She does not know where they came from or where they are going; maybe this is the best day for them. She thought that was cool to hear. As someone who majored in a program, having reliable gear was vital and it was a lot for her family.

Chairperson Harcar congratulated all the students. She attended the breakfast and will attend next year as well. There was a student, she worked with at ETTS; she did not recognize him as he now looked like a grown man. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and it is Celebrate Diversity Month. Her Muslim neighbors will be wrapping up the Ramadan season. There will be a Water Festival, which is Thai and Buddhist New Year, and the Napoli New Year is April 14.

Chairperson Dixon thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. He congratulated all the students who were part of the scholarship laptop/computer presentation. It is great to see students excelling in education. He repeated each student's name. He thanked Ms. Lacey for her comments. He said it was nice to meet Director Isaacs. He thanked Ms. Bivens for the information on the Humankind Scholarship program.

Chairperson Brown thanked everyone for watching online and those attending the meeting tonight. He congratulated the scholarship winners. As someone who relied heavily on scholarships and grants to get through college, he knows the big deal these scholarships can be. He thanked everyone who makes that scholarship possible. He thanked

everyone who was part of the Eclipse Party. He thanked ETTS and Councilperson Harcar for allowing him to come and see the social services programming and all the things they offer. He thanked Etna Road Elementary and his Student Ambassador Ezra for helping him on Career Day.

Chairperson Morrison thanked everyone for watching online and those attending the meeting tonight. He congratulated all the students, they worked hard and it is great the city could provide the opportunity. He thanked Joy for her presentation. He did not attend the eclipse but his wife, grandson did attend, and they really enjoyed themselves.

President Potter recognized the young adults who were the recipients of the laptops/computers tonight. It was great to be a part of that; he thanked Lorena for including Council as it was just as much a thrill for him as it must be for the students. He enjoyed their future aspirations and their higher level of education. He thanked Joy for the scholarship information.

Having nothing further, President Potter adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: April 16, 2024

Thomas M. Potter, Council President