

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2018

President Graham called the September 18, 2018 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Ms. Elmore.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Freimark, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2018.

Jim Graham, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

President Graham called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 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:

JoAnna Heck
Larry Morrison
Robert Bailey
Chris Rodriguez
Karen Conison
Wes Kantor

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 members responded in the affirmative and Ms. Elmore was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Conison moved to approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2018 agenda and regular meetings. Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

POLL PUBLIC

No comments at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Bailey reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They have numerous items that will be introduced tonight. He wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community and Elder Advocacy – President Graham reported that Chairperson Elmore was unable to attend the meeting this evening. However, that Committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet 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 have Ordinance No. 080-2018 up for a reading this evening. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – Chairperson Morrison 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 have no pending drafts or legislations. They will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

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

Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Kantor reported that they met last Tuesday 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 on Ordinance Nos. 080-2018, 087-2018 and 092-2018. She wished Happy Birthday to Councilman Rodriguez. She explained at the next week's council meeting they would be discussing draft legislation regarding the revision of the income tax filing that was approved last year. It is urging Governor Kasich and the general assembly to give back money to the municipalities that was taken from the local government fund. We can no longer collect state tax and tangible personal property tax as the city has lost approximately 1.7 million dollars a year over a course of 10 years. The state has such a surplus that Governor Kasich wants it to go to a rainy day fund because they have no other plans for the money. Municipalities across the state are advocating the state to give the money back to where it came from.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – he wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday. He reported they had no new participants in drug court today, but the ones that are currently on the program are going in a positive direction. Roses Department Store has given the City Attorney's office a schedule of the work that needs done and he found it to be acceptable. They anticipate the work to be done by the beginning of October. He has some other strategies if they do not do something as it relates to the traffic flow.

He said the mayor conducts staff meetings and she encourages her staff to dream big and follow their passion. To follow what the mayor is urging, the City Attorney's Office has always been passionate about domestic violence. They are going to host a community swap meet, which will help support survivors of domestic violence. It will be held on October 13, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the porch at City Hall. This is to help support survivors by giving them free things as it relates to their lives. If you have any items that you would like to donate, then you can drop them off at his office. Any items that go unclaimed will be donated to agencies and organizations that are dedicated to victims of Domestic Violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month so they wanted to do something special. Next year they would like to do a 5K run and giveaway to bring awareness to domestic violence.

City Auditor Dan Miller – he had no official report. He asked for favorable consideration Ordinance Nos. 088-2018 and 089-2018 and Resolution Nos. 036-2018 and 037-2018. He wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday.

Director of Public Service and Development Zach Woodruff – he had no official report.

Director of Public Safety Van Gregg – He reported they have added four K9 officers since 2017. He said it is amazing on what these officers can do with the K9's. They added two new Resource Officers, which brings the total to three, and all three of these officers take a lot of pride in their schools. They created a Drug Task force to go after the drug dealers. This is one of the best in central Ohio as far as what they do. They have seized cash, 2 million dollars' worth of drugs off the street. They gain \$123.00 for every dollar spent in the law enforcement fund. The last two years violent crimes have decreased 38%, robbery decreased 47% and burglary decreased 35%, which is an all-time low after 22 years. There is a lot going on in the police department and he is very proud of them.

Treasurer Steve Quincel – he had no official report. He wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday.

President Graham – advised that the following Officials' Reports have been filed in the Council Office since the last meeting: The Division of Fire Overtime Report for August 2018.

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 members responded in the affirmative.

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 080-2018

“AMENDING 745 VENDORS AND SOLICITORS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Rodriguez then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 080-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 080-2018 was adopted.

SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 084-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FIFTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$50,573.50) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT / PROJECT FUND (311) TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT (311-000-54000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 087-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$17,750.00) FROM THE GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SALARY EXPENSE ACCOUNT 101.960.51250 TO THE SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS SALARY ACCOUNT 101.960.51550 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 087-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 087-2018 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 087-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 087-2018 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 088-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“MAKING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$156,500.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE OPWC PROJECTS FUND (308) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 088-2018 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 088-2018 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 088-2018 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 088-2018 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 089-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$63,792.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE REC/PARK FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101-700-59000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 089-2018 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 089-2018 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 089-2018 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 089-2018 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 090-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATTACHED TO CHAPTER 1122 OF THE 1970 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, AMENDING THE PLANNED APARTMENT DISTRICT (PAD) DEVELOPMENT PLAN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 540 SOUTH HAMILTON RD, PARCEL NUMBER (090-001623), PROPERTY OWNED BY HAMILTON CROSSING HOMES, LLC.”

ORDINANCE NO. 091-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION TO THE EAST-WEST ALLEY NORTH OF MAIN STREET AND WEST OF LAMBY LANE IN THE BLOWER ADDITION DIRECTLY BEHIND 3948 – 3972 EAST MAIN STREET.”

ORDINANCE NO. 092-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AUTHORIZING AN EXEMPTION OF 161.09(a) VACATION AND SICK LEAVE CREDIT CARRYOVER FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING A HIGHLY QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE TO THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 092-2018 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 092-2018 was suspended.

Ms. Conison then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 092-2018 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 092-2018 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 036-2018 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. 036-2018 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 036-2018 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey then moved to adopt Resolution No. 036-2018 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 036-2018 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 037-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION, AUTHORIZING NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 037-2018 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 037-2018 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey then moved to adopt Resolution No. 037-2018 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 037-2018 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 038-2018 was read by title only by President Graham:

“URGING THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO, TO SUPPORT ISSUE #8, THE WHITEHALL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS 3.41 MILL COMBINED BOND AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY IN THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER ELECTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Kantor introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 038-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 038-2018 was suspended.

Mr. Kantor then moved to adopt Resolution No. 038-2018 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 038-2018 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC

Gerald Dixon, 3877 Doney St. He said the first time he heard the term “free money” it was said by President Graham in reference to grant money we received. He gave his opinion on the ramifications of grant money or free money. He explained that Whitehall is a poorer than average town and can’t afford to take care of their responsibilities on their own. However, they can afford to buy property with citizen’s money in the amount of 20 million dollars, but they can’t afford to repair the cities infrastructure. They lose money by giving tax abatements to businesses that will take advantage of our opportunities. To make up for that lost money they take advantage of grant money. Therefore, businesses win and we all lose per the national debt. We are living beyond our means and city hall is not fiscally responsible. We can’t afford to maintain our own city and in doing so, we are helping to balloon the national debt, but our shortsightedness says that is not our problem. It is our community that says, “if we don’t take that grant money some other community will”. Who is finally going to show sense and restraint for the common good?

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD

Mayor Maggard said on Wednesday, September 26, is a September Social at Heartland Bank from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The City of Whitehall, Whitehall Area Chamber of Commerce and Whitehall Community Investment Corporation sponsor it. She urged everyone to come, enjoy refreshments and music, and hear some ideas for the future of Whitehall.

Thursday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. is Volley for the Cure at the High School. This is their annual fundraiser for cancer. Friday, September 28, the VFW is having a Fish Fry from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All proceeds go to support the Rams sports clubs.

Ms. Conison said this Thursday is a home football game and there is a tailgate at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Bailey said TedX is October 24, at the High School

Treasurer Quincel said Thursday, September 27 is an Open house for the remodeled auditorium. Please contact Ty at the schools to RSVP.

POLL COUNCIL

Ms. Heck thanked everyone for coming and from watching from home. She wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Morrison thanked everyone for coming and for the comments. He wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Bailey said it was nice to see everyone there tonight.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked everyone for coming out and said it was good to see some new faces. He thanked everyone for the kind wishes.

Ms. Conison thanked everyone for coming. She wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday. She thanked Mr. Dixon for s sharing his point of view. She explained that tonight in the Jewish religion is Yom Kippur. She shared a story about the climate of the world. Her kids went to Greece and had no problems leaving the country, but they were detained coming back in the country and missed their flight. This was all because of her son-in-law's name. We have wonderful people in the world and a few bad and unfortunately good people pay for that.

Mr. Kantor thanked everyone for coming. He wished Mr. Rodriguez a Happy Birthday. He wished Ms. Conison good luck for next 26 hours. He said he is a new grandfather with a new grandson.

President Graham said he needed to clarify his statement regarding free money. The money that he is calling "free money" is money that is not part of the city budget. The city has a list of projects that need to be done. If you can find a grant that would apply to a particular project, instead of paying for a 100% of the project, the city pays 25% and the grant covers 75%. Usually the projects are going to be done with or without a grant. Maybe free money would not be the right term, but it is free money to the city of Whitehall and the citizens because it didn't come out of the budget.

The comments that were said this evening were right, as long as it continues by every city it is going to keep on continuing. The same thing goes when city offer incentives to companies to come build in their city. These companies would not come to the city unless something was offered; they would just go to another city. It is a vicious circle and everyone is stuck in that circle because if you don't continue, you will be left out. He does not disagree with all the points that were brought up, but if the money is available to all communities, we would be irresponsible if we did not apply for these grants. The grants have nothing to do with the revitalization projects.

Mr. Rodriguez said a perfect example of how grants can help a community is the building of the new schools. They were able to buy two schools and get three free. The City of Whitehall or the School Board would not be good stewards of the money if they did not take advantage of the grants that are offered.

Having nothing further, Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Freimark, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2018.

Jim Graham, Council President