

Call to order 5:54 pm John Feters.

Mayor Bivens sworn in Chris Bolich, Michelle Reed, Gerald Leka to Parks Commission for terms beginning 01/2024.

On Roll call: John Feters, Gerlad Leka, Chris Bolich, Michelle Reed

Chirs Bolich nominate John Feters- Leka 2<sup>nd</sup> this nomination Chair. Passed: all in favor, none opposed.

Chris Bolich nominate Mike Adkins for vice chair 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Feters. Passed all in favor, no opposed.

Approve minutes for November 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting

Director Brady commented on items for consideration: Budget. Concluding 2023 we requisitioned all money within the accounts. The City did not have the cash on hand therefore the purchases planned for the end of 2023 funding was not approved. These expenses still occurred but will now be coming out of 2024 budget including mowers, shelving, tree work and programs in roughly the amount of \$27,000. The city is still working through the cash on hand and has asked that we input this year's monthly requisitions to cover expenses for only two months at a time. We are still working through the process of possibly changing the expense and revenue account numbers.

John Feters motioned to approve minutes. Chris Bolich 2nd motion.

All approved, no opposed. Michelle Reed abstained from vote. Not present at the November 2023 meeting.

Directors report:

Director Brady introduced the new Superintendent Justin Linzy and welcomed him to the team. Justin comes to us via assistant Athletic and Facilities Director at Muskingum University. Justin has a strong sports background and is hoping to grow the sports programs here in Whitehall.

Full time parks maintenance labor position open. Robbie Johnson retired at the end of 2024 and we will be looking to fill that position.

The new facility rental software we were hoping to have up and running at the first of the year has been delayed. The department is waiting on Forte, the credit card processing to complete the transition. We are already holding rentals for 2024 and calls are coming in. OPRA conference is Feb 4-7 most of the team will be going. This past year Whitehall was the most award winning team in the state and will be taking the stage to accept first place for the TNT (Thursday night Thriller) program accompanied by partners Antonio Gordon and Sargent John Earl.

MLK breakfast went well. With 60 people in attendance, we had 10 applications for scholarships with 2 being awarded and all applicants receiving lap tops.

Cory is out of the office this week at year 2 of Event management school. He will be taking on a more active roll in social media and marketing. Whitehall Parks and Recreation can now find its own fb and Instagram and tiktok pages and more posts that interact with our audiences.

The senior center office is 95% complete and getting in order for rentals to begin. We do have a Tuesday and Thursday reoccurring rental that began this week. Senior dining will be moving from YMCA to the Senior Center in February the accessibility to the YMCA has contributed to the lowered attendance at meals. The center is hoping that the transition will bring numbers back to the program.

In sports: Baseball, softball, t-ball, little sluggers, spring soccer and boxing are all open for registration and all for 45-50 \$ a session per child. Superintendent Linzy is working with Eboni our sports supervisor in planning fall soccer, futsal, hockey and golf.

All of the main events for 2024 are posted with only a few changes from last year including a solar eclipse party and a 5k-purple run in October to raise domestic violence awareness and will hopefully to be held in the new Rockwell District. Parks and Recreation will fill in with smaller programs for the upcoming spring, summer and fall.

Tree Commission: We are still waiting to hear back on the two grants that have been applied for. The first is for an emerging tree program and the second is to carry out the program. Should we be awarded these grants we will take the next steps for a master plan for public tree maintenance.

Bolich: In reference to sports in particular soccer and spring soccer registration. Would like to see a letter drafted to try and find some middle ground and not divide the city's youth soccer leagues. We have grown too much and have all the skills to come together to make a really successful soccer league for the youth of our City. Director Brady agreed to draft the letter and Chairman Feters asked that the Commission be sent the drafted letter before being sent out.

No other business

Meeting adjourned: 6:32