

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

President Potter called the March 5, 2024 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 19, 2024

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – March 5, 2024

President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 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:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Elmore moved to approve the February 20, 2024 Agenda and Regular Meeting Minutes, the February 27, 2024, Agenda and Committee Meeting Minutes, and the February 27, 2024, Agenda and Special Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. During the roll call vote, all members voted "yes," and the minutes were approved as presented.

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 prior to the meeting, including any add-on legislation. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative.

FIRST READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

RECOGNIZING SHANE MCGEE AS THE 2023 POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND
AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS
(\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 003-2024 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 Resolution No. 003-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Morrison moved to adopt Resolution No. 003-2024 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Resolution No. 003-2024 was adopted.

Chief Crispen presented the Resolution to Officer McGee.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

RECOGNIZING FRANK BLEVINS AS THE 2023 LABOR /SERVICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Brown introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 004-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Resolution No. 004-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Brown moved to adopt Resolution No. 004-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Resolution No. 004-2024 was adopted.

Director of Public Service Casey Thomas will present the Resolution to Frank Blevins tomorrow at the Service Garage.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

RECOGNIZING IAN FELLERS AS THE 2023 FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 005-2024 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 Resolution No. 005-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Morrison moved to adopt Resolution No. 005-2024 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Resolution No. 005-2024 was adopted.

Chief Preston Moore presented the Resolution to Ian Fellers.

RESOLUTION NO. 006-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

RECOGNIZING JULIE HARRIS AS THE 2023 ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HER A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Brown introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 006-2024 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Resolution No. 006-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Brown moved to adopt Resolution No. 006-2024 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Resolution No. 006-2024 was adopted.

City Attorney Nicodemus presented the Resolution to Julie Harrison.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mayor Michael T. Bivens presented a proclamation for Women's History Month.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Police Chief Crispen and Fire Chief Moore presented the Whitehall Public Safety Alliance to the Council and the Administration. He will have more information for the Council soon. They answered questions from the Council at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING:

President Potter opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 001-2024 at 7:30 p.m. and asked the applicants

ORDINANCE NO. 001-2024

AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATTACHED TO CHAPTER 1104.01 OF THE 2023 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, ALLOWING A SPECIAL PERMIT UNDER SECTION 1104.03(H) TO PERMIT BUY & BUY AUTO SALE, LLC COMPANY TO OPERATE A VEHICLE AND LARGE EQUIPMENT REPAIR BUSINESS IN THE MAIN STREET DISTRICT.

President Potter asked if there were any proponents to Ordinance 001-2024 and if so please come forward, and state your name, and address for the record. There was none.

President Potter asked if there were any opponents to Ordinance 001-2024 and if so please come forward, state your name, and address for the record. There was none.

Director of Public Service Casey Thomas stated that the Whitehall Planning Commission voted unfavorably for the application.

After confirming with Ms. Ogg that there were no additional proponents or opponents of Ordinance 001-2024, President Potter closed the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Economic Development – Chairperson Dixon reported that the committee 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 Brown reported that the committee met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

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

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Michael T. Bivens – when Whitehall residents voted on Issue 2 they were seventy-two percent in favor of the legalization of marijuana. He is putting that on the Council's radar is in the past Council has created a moratorium on dispensaries outlawing them in the City of Whitehall. To the extent that the issue is still circulating through the Statehouse and to the extent that they are putting together some of the fine touches on that, expect something to come to Council as it relates to that ordinance. This will be in line with what the City of Whitehall residents want but also be in line with the state law. He went to a listening session with Heart of Ohio at 5000 E. Maine Street. A fantastic healthcare facility is servicing

the residents of the City of Whitehall. If you need dental needs to mental health needs, even women's reproductive rights are forefront at Heart of Ohio. He invites anyone within the City of Whitehall to consider that as one of his or her first choices in healthcare. He commended the fine students and the Black History Month Proclamation last month. He did not know a seed was planted in those young people. They invited him, unknowingly; to what he thought was a Black History Month celebration. As it turned out, those four students created the first Black Culture Club for the City of Whitehall; taking applications and creating the whole program with over two hundred students with music, poetry, and history. It was the best Black History Month celebration he has ever seen. They never know the seeds that they plant, or inspire, and they think they are doing something small, then it balloons into something beautiful.

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus – the new Victims Advocate has started and her name is Hannah Dugan. She has gotten some in-office training and is getting to know the other employees. He explained the procedures that someone who has been arrested goes through for a 4D arraignment. The new Victim Advocate handled nine cases on her first Monday court day.

City Auditor Steve Quincel – yesterday the Auditor's Office Tax Division began working ten-hour shifts to cover tax season; working Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. This will continue through the end of April. He advised the Council that he would be coming to them with a piece of legislation that would be a revision of Ordinance 111-2023. This was toward the end of the year and it was the change in the end-of-month transfers. Mayor Maggard prepared that legislation based on the information she had at the time. There have been some changes to the funds that are impacted by these transfers. He asked for favorable consideration on Resolution 007-2024.

Director of Public Service Casey Thomas –presented detailed information. Mayor Bivens mentioned last week, the water line project and the OWDA loan that is being applied for. Back in the fall, Megan and Zach gathered the information and she was able to apply for approval. The hope is it will be approved by the end of the month. When the approval happens, she understands the funds will be released the next day or on April 2. She explained all the amounts from the handouts she provided to the Council.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – had no official report. He congratulated all the Employees of the Year.

Treasurer Shaquille Alexander – had no official report. He echoed the Auditor's comments on the end-of-the-month transfers.

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

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

There were no Communications, Petitions, and Claims filed in the Council Office since the last meeting.

POLL PUBLIC:

Brian Winston, Whitehall, OH, thanked the Mayor for all that he does and for acknowledging Women's History Month and Literacy Week. He thanked him for engaging everyone since he began as Mayor of Whitehall. He has lived in Whitehall since 2016 and he is proud of the direction Whitehall is heading.

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 001-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATTACHED TO CHAPTER 1104.01 OF THE 2023 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, ALLOWING A SPECIAL PERMIT UNDER SECTION 1104.03(H) TO PERMIT BUY & BUY AUTO SALE, LLC COMPANY TO OPERATE A VEHICLE AND LARGE EQUIPMENT REPAIR BUSINESS IN THE MAIN STREET DISTRICT.

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to adopt Ordinance No. 001-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Elmore, yes; Morrison, no; Heck, no; Smith, no; Harcar, no; Dixon, no; Brown, no and Ordinance No. 001-2024 was defeated.

SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 010-2024 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TWELVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$12,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE BUILDING LOT MAINTENANCE EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.950.53300) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 010-2024 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion.

Councilperson Morrison discussed with the Mayor a few weeks ago on this issue and the expenses out of this account. The Mayor was gracious enough to provide him with the receipts to cover the expenses. He has reviewed them and thanked the Mayor for the information.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 010-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Ordinance No. 010-2024 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 010-2024 was adopted.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 005-2024 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

TABLED ON JANUARY 16, 2024

AMENDING SECTION 1103.02(C) (BUILDING PLACEMENT), AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATTACHED TO CHAPTER 1104.01 OF THE 2023 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, AND CHANGING THE ZONING ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON FAIRWAY BLVD., PARCEL NUMBERS 090-001774, 090-001812, 090-001819, 090-001775, 090-001776, 090-001010, 090-001777, 090-001735, 090-001778, 090-006752, 090-001780, 090-001781 and 090-001782, FROM STUR TO RESIDENTIAL ESTATE DISTRICT.

Ms. Elmore moved to have Ordinance No. 005-2024 tabled indefinitely and Ms. Harcar seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, Elmore, yes; Morrison, yes; Heck, yes; Smith, Yes; Harcar, yes; Dixon, no; Brown, yes and Ordinance No. 005-2024 was tabled indefinitely.

ORDINANCE NO. 013-2024 *was read by title only by President Potter:*

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, CAPITAL CITY LODGE 9 FOR THE CONTRACT TERM JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Morrison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 013-2024 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. 013-2024 were suspended.

Mr. Morrison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 013-2024 and Ms. Elmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 013-2024 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 014-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL 161 TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Smith introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 014-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion.

Mayor Bivens said this was for a title change to the Communications Director. It is not an increase in salary but just a change in her title as she is going out presenting herself publically that she has a title that is conducive to her job.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Ordinance No. 014-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 014-2024 and Ms. Heck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Ordinance No. 014-2024 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 007-2024 was read by title only by President Potter:

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

Ms. Elmore introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 007-2024 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion.

Auditor Quincel explained the necessity of the then and now certificates for the new Council members.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the rules on Resolution No. 007-2024 were suspended.

Ms. Elmore moved to adopt Resolution No. 007-2024 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, and Resolution No. 007-2024 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC:

No comments at this time.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

Easter egg stuffing will be happening on March 11 at 6:30 pm at the YMCA. The Easter Egg Hunt is on March 23, 2024. A Puzzle Party is happening on March 30 at the YMCA from 2:00 until 4:00 pm.

Carfit will be held on March 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Senior Center. It is a chance for our seniors to get some information about driving and their car.

Use caution and be alert when driving on East Broad Street as there is paving and storm drops being installed. This construction will continue through the fall.

POLL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Elmore thanked those viewing from home, the presenters, the Employees of the Year, and those who came out to this Council meeting. This award speaks to their work ethic, dedication, job leadership and so much more. She welcomed the Victim's Advocate Hannah Dugan. She thanked the Mayor for the Woman's History Month Proclamation and for acknowledging Literacy Week. She addressed the Whitehall Public Safety Alliance and said what gets measured, gets done.

Chairperson Morrison thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. He thanked Ms. Elmore for her coverage of everything.

Chairperson Heck thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. She thanked Mr. Wilson for getting up and speaking. She congratulated the Employees of the Year and said Happy Women's History Month.

Chairperson Smith thanked those who came in for Employee of the Year, as it is a very public announcement to have something positive said about them, especially on a live recording to the entire city, which she thinks is fantastic. She looks forward to hearing more about the Public Safety Alliance.

Chairperson Harcar congratulated all the Employees of the Year. She thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation. She is excited to hear that Hannah Dugan has started and she looks forward to meeting her. Since it is Woman's History Month and Literacy Week, she wanted to mention that she brought her book, To Be a Drum by Aminah Robinson. She is a local artist and she wanted to speak about someone during Women's History Month. Ramadan will be coming up; she wants to welcome the Muslim neighbors and acknowledge their holiday. Afghan and Persian New Year are coming up and Easter is at the end of the month.

Chairperson Dixon thanked those in attendance and those watching from home. He thanked Mayor Bivens for the Proclamation. As an avid reader, he also thanked the Mayor for his effort for Literacy Week. He thanked the Employees of the Year for their commendations tonight. Everyone has their parts to play in this machine they call Whitehall from the streets to the government buildings; he is pleased that they were recognized for the parts they play in that. He thanked Mr. Winston for speaking tonight and for his kind words. Public Safety Alliance, Chief Crispin, and Chief Moore he looks forward to it and seeing its movement and growth. He congratulated Hannah Dugan, the new Domestic Violence Advocate. He owes a debt of gratitude to the woman in his life and he appreciates women. He congratulated Ms. Wike who is the new Communications Manager.

Chairperson Brown thanked everyone for coming out this evening. Congratulations to all the Employees of the Year! He expressed gratitude for their hard work and dedication. "He is enthusiastic about the Public Safety Alliance and curious about the possibilities it may bring. It is a great step forward. He thanked the Mayor for his Proclamation.

President Potter commended all the employees who were recognized for their hard work. There are no spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors in this sentence. He appreciates the Proclamation on Woman's History Month. He is excited about the Public Safety Alliance and he thinks that is a ground-up approach. He thanked Mr. Winston for coming and he would like to see him more often.

Having nothing further, President Potter adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 19, 2024

Thomas M. Potter, Council President