

WHITEHALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MINUTES – March 26, 2024

Council President Potter called the March 26, 2024, Council Committees' meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The following members of the council and the administration were present:

Members of the Administration

Council President Thomas Potter
Mayor Michael T. Bivens
Dir. of Public Service Casey Thomas
City Auditor Steve Quincel

Council Members

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

ADMINISTRATION/COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE MATTERS:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Presentation

Kelsey Ellingsen, Local Government Affairs Director, COTA, and Elliott Lewis, Senior Planner, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission gave the Council and the Administration information on what is and why LinkUS. LinkUS is central Ohio's comprehensive transportation initiative to help address growth, affordability, and opportunity gaps in our community. The entire COTA service area will benefit from LinkUS. There could be a potential COTA Levy on the November 2024 ballot.

Kelsey Ellingsen and Elliott Lewis answered questions at this time.

Mayor Bivens thanked Kelsey and Elliott for the presentation. He does not want the Council and the public to lose sight of the fact that at the end of the day, LinkUS will be a ballot initiative that will go to the voters in November, and will be a levy that could potentially increase costs to residents. That is the short-term and the reason he brings it up as a segway, he and Casey met with a company called Trebel Aggregation that is in the business of pooling electric and gas that lowers costs. If the Council is amenable, at the next committee meeting, he could have that company come in and explain how their services could lower costs for Whitehall residents as LinkUS is considering raising costs. This would be another ballot initiative.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Councilperson Elmore opened Administration and Financial Management at 7:06 p.m. and said no drafts or pending legislation are on the agenda.

There was no discussion on Administration and Financial Management.

Having nothing further, Councilperson Elmore closed at 7:06 p.m.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY

Chairperson Harcar opened Community and Elder Advocacy at 7:07 p.m. and said no drafts or pending legislation are on the agenda.

There was no discussion on Community and Elder Advocacy.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Harcar closed at 7:07 p.m.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Chairperson Smith opened Community Standards and Enforcement at 7:07 p.m. and addressed the legislation in her committee, as follows:

Steve Brown, Code Enforcement and Animal Control Officer gave the Council an update on the feral cat population in Whitehall. He presented the (TNR) Trap, Neuter, and Return program with SOS on Livingston Avenue. In six months, there were 10 colonies and fifty-seven cats treated. The average cost per cat is seventy-three dollars. He answered questions from Councilmembers at this time.

Walt Sural, Code Enforcement Officer explained to the Council that when the Zoning Code was updated, some items were unintentionally omitted from the code. The next eight pieces of legislation represent these items. He explained Drafts one through eight and the reason for each needing to be in the code. He answered questions from the Councilmembers at this time.

ORDINANCE NO. 016-2024 DRAFT # 1

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.

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Brown)

ORDINANCE NO. 017-2024 DRAFT # 2

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

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Elmore)

ORDINANCE NO. 018-2024 DRAFT # 3

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.

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Morrison)

ORDINANCE NO. 019-2024 DRAFT # 4

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.

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Heck)

ORDINANCE NO. 020-2024 DRAFT # 5

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

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Morrison)

ORDINANCE NO. 021-2024 DRAFT # 6

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.

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Harcar)

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2024 DRAFT # 7

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

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Dixon)

ORDINANCE NO. 023-2024 DRAFT # 8

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

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Dixon)

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2024 DRAFT # 9

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.

Mayor Bivens said the Central Ohio Mayors Association has drafted a letter in conjunction with all of the Mayors in that organization supporting the lawsuit.

(Comm. Stand & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 04/02/2024-Smith/Morrison)

Having nothing further, Chairperson Smith closed at 7:58 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson Dixon opened Economic Development at 7:58 p.m. and said no drafts or pending legislation are on the agenda.

He left a message for Joe Long today but has not heard back from him. He wants to have a meeting with him in the near future. Mr. Long is on vacation at this time.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Dixon closed at 7:58 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

Chairperson Brown opened Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Service at 7:59 p.m. and said no drafts or pending legislation are on the agenda.

There was no discussion on Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Service.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Brown closed at 7:59 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairperson Morrison opened Public Safety at 7:59 p.m. and said no drafts or pending legislation are on the agenda.

There was no discussion on Public Safety.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Morrison closed at 7:59 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Chairperson Heck opened Parks and Recreation at 7:59 p.m. and said no drafts or pending legislation are on the agenda.

There is a Puzzle Party at the YMCA this weekend. The Solar Eclipse Party will be held on April 8, 2024, at John Bishop Park.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Heck closed at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: April 9, 2024

Thomas M. Potter, Council President