

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2016

Council President Jim Graham called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

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:

Larry Morrison
Bob Bailey
Van Gregg
Karen Conison
Lee Stahley

EXECUSE ABSENT MEMBER

Mr. Bailey moved to excuse the absent members and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the five present members voted in the affirmative and Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Kantor were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Conison moved to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2016 agenda and regular meetings. Mr. Gregg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members responded in the affirmative and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Molly Sequin, Outreach Coordinator at CASA of Franklin County, 373 S. High Street, introduced herself and said she wanted to explain the CASA program. Court Appointed Special Advocates or CASA was established in 1991 and is a private nonprofit program. She explained that Whitehall is a growing and thriving community; however an unfortunate trend in most suburbs in Franklin County is the growth in child abuse and neglect. Over 4200 children in Franklin County found themselves in the juvenile court system due to abuse and neglect. The average time in foster care is two years. CASA recruits, trains and certifies community members to become guardian ad litem or GAL for the children. The first step to become a GAL is to attend a 35 hour initial training class and 12 hours additional training each year. The Guardian ad litem only represents the child. They set up interviews with the child, the child's parents and anyone that the child interacts with. Often time jail is the only consistent and stable environment in their lives. It is Ohio law that every child that is brought into the juvenile court system is matched with a guardian at litem. CASA takes some of the most neglected and abused children. With domestic violence and drug abuse on the rise, we are asking our community leaders to speak up for the over 4200 innocent victims waiting for guardian at litem. We are hoping to partner with the citizens of Whitehall to promote advocacy to volunteer with CASA. Ms. Sequin concluded by stating that research shows that abused and neglected children who are matched up with GAL are less likely to abuse substances, commit family violence as an adult, become violent criminals, suffer from mental illness or become incarcerated. She thanked council for allowing her to present an overview of the important work CASA is doing. She urged council to review the events they have scheduled and invited anyone to contact her and visit the downtown office to witness what they do first hand. President Graham confirmed they are funded by private donations and federal grants.

POLL PUBLIC

Mr. Marc Conison, 958 Karl Street, requested a new car for the citizen's patrol. He said that in his opinion the current car is scary and dangerous.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Bailey reported that they met two weeks ago and their minutes are on file. They discussed Res. #032-2016. They will meet again next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community Engagement – Chairperson Conison reported that they met two weeks ago and their minutes are on file. She explained that the committee is in the middle of high activity season which involves planning many fun family events. She is asking everyone to check out the Facebook page for all events. The committee will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community Standards and Enforcement – President Graham spoke on behalf of Chairperson Rodriguez who was unable to attend this evening. He said that they met two weeks ago and their minutes are on file. They too will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – Chairperson Morrison reported that they two met weeks ago and their minutes are on file. They discussed Ord. #058-2016. They will meet sometime after 6:30 p.m. next week.

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services – Chairperson Gregg said that they met two weeks ago and their minutes are on file. They will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Chairperson Stahley said that they met two weeks ago and their minutes are on file. The Safety Committee will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation – President Graham spoke on behalf of Chairperson Kantor who was unable to attend this evening. He said that they met two weeks ago and their minutes are on file. They too will meet next week, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Kim Maggard – She gave a shout out to her neighbors, the Litzes and thanked them for being here. She asked for favorable consideration for Ord. #056-2016 & #057-2016 as well as Res. #037-2016. Res. #037-2016 is for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality or CMAQ regarding our new traffic lights. CMAQ is to mitigate congestion and improve air quality. If we have traffic lights that are operated by fiber rather than timers we will know exactly when they need to be changed, people can get back to their homes quicker and it will reduce fumes and pollution in the air. It will also help reduce traffic congestion and maybe even reduce tempers from being in traffic. She stated that Res #038-2016 is to authorize the city to enter into an agreement with WOW. If we can partner with WOW it will speed the process along because we won't have to contract with every entity. She has already started working on the budget of 2017 and she will be meeting with the city's liability insurance carrier regarding renewal insurance. She feels it is definitely necessary to protect the city and its assets.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – He thanked the members of the public for coming out tonight. He stated the only official report he has is that in the month of May we only had 86 new cases filed in our mayor's court, which is a very low number. Last year in the month of May they had over 200 cases in mayor's court. Maybe this year we are sending out the message "do not commit crime in Whitehall". Out of those 86 cases only 34 were actual Whitehall residents. Unofficially he reported he did a ride along with Officer Holyfield. It was supposed to last one hour and he stayed six hours. He said it was an amazing experience. They went on two different runs that were able to successfully help two individuals that had attempted suicide. To see the

touch and compassion of our public safety officers was amazing. It made his heart proud of our public safety personnel. Mr. Bivens concluded by explaining if we see a dark cloud over his head it is because his daughter is going away to college next week. He stated that if anyone sees her posting things on Facebook that is not appropriate, please feel free to let him know.

City Auditor Dan Miller – No official report tonight.

Director of Public Safety Chuck Underwood – No official report tonight. Director Underwood said he was pleased that the City Attorney was impressed by Officer Holyfield.

Treasurer Steve Quincel – No official report.

Council President Jim Graham - advised that no Officials' Reports have been filed in the Council Office since the last meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Minutes of the June 2, 2016, meeting of the Whitehall Planning Commission.
2. A letter from Mark F. Taggart, owner of the 140,000 sq. ft. Air South Commerce Center expressing support for the City's purchase of the Commons at Royal Landing.

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. The five present members all responded in the affirmative.

THIRD READING

There was no legislation for third reading.

SECOND READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 032-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 055-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE MAY 2016 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Morrison introduced Ordinance No. 055-2016 and moved to suspend the rules, Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members responded in the affirmative and the rules were suspended.

Mr. Morrison then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 055-2016 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 055-2016 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 056-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AFFIRMING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WHITEHALL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION AS AN AGENCY OF THE CITY UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 1724.10 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT AND PLAN FOR INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, DISTRIBUTION AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Morrison introduced Ordinance No. 056-2016 and moved to suspend the rules, Mr. Gregg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members responded in the affirmative and the rules were suspended.

Mr. Morrison then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 056-2016 and Mr. Gregg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 056-2016 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 057-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“APPROPRIATING MONIES ON DEPOSIT IN WHITEHALL MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND TO BE USED TO FUND A PORTION OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE COMMONS AT ROYAL LANDING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

ORDINANCE NO. 058-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$4,500,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY GENERALLY KNOWN AT THE COMMONS AT ROYAL LANDING AS PART OF A PROJECT TO REDEVELOP THAT PROPERTY WITH A MIX OF COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL USES, ALL IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CREATING OR PRESERVING JOBS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND PROVIDING HOUSING WITHIN THE CITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.”

Mr. Morrison introduced Ordinance No. 058-2016 and moved to suspend the rules, Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members responded in the affirmative and the rules were suspended.

Mr. Morrison then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 058-2016 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members voted in the affirmative and ORDINANCE NO. 058-2016 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 059-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF SEVENTEEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$17,000.00) FROM

UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND (550) TO THE HOME REINVESTMENT PROGRAM ACCOUNT (550-000-53000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY”.

RESOLUTION NO. 037-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CMAQ) FUNDING AND COMMITTING THE NECESSARY NON-FEDERAL MATCH AND STATING THE ASSURANCE TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY”.

Mr. Gregg introduced Resolution No. 037-2016 and moved to suspend the rules, Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members responded in the affirmative and the rules were suspended.

Mr. Gregg then moved to adopt Resolution No. 037-2016 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 037-2016 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 038-2016 was read by title only by President Graham:

“AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FIBER OVERLASH AGREEMENT WITH WIDE OPEN WEST (WOW), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. “

Mr. Gregg introduced Resolution No. 038-2016 and moved to suspend the rules, Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members responded in the affirmative and the rules were suspended.

Mr. Gregg then moved to adopt Resolution No. 038-2016 and Ms. Conison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, the five present members voted in the affirmative and RESOLUTION NO. 038-2016 was adopted

POLL PUBLIC

There were no comments.

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD

Ms. Martineau informed council that applications for the home reinvestment program ended last week and she has had the pleasure of meeting with all but one of the applicants. The City is happy to be able to help fund 23 homeowners and their projects. She agreed with Ms. Conison that we are in the middle of the busy season. She wanted to let everyone know that Wednesday, June 22, is the TEDX Yearling Rd. group. She sent out invitations and she hopes that everyone can come. She explained that TED stands for technology, entertainment and design, but it is basically people that get up on stage and share their stories. It's all about making us think. The topic on June 22 is regarding perception. She believes that if people come to the event they will leave with a different perception. She concluded that with this huge holiday coming up she has created a comprehensive list of events that can be picked up this evening or viewed on the web page. Ms. Conison shared that she passed out the list at Music at the Park last Sunday. She wanted to let everyone know how fun and free Music in the Park is and hopes everyone comes and shares the experience.

POLL COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - June 7, 2016

Mr. Morrison thanked everyone for coming and hopes they have a good week.

Mr. Bailey thanked everyone for coming this evening and stated he appreciates the mayor looking in to sidewalk repairs, which will be discussed next week. He suggested they all go home and enjoy the weather.

Mr. Gregg thanked everyone for coming and especially thanked Ms. Sequin with CASA for her insight on the program. He is sure this program helps many children.

Mrs. Conison thanked everyone for coming. She complimented Ms. Sequin from CASA on the program. She also thanked her for the invitation. She will see everyone in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Stahley thanked everyone for coming.

President Graham thanked everyone for coming.

Having nothing further, Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn and Mr. Gregg seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the five present members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Freimark, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2016.

Jim Graham, Council President