

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

February 04, 2020

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President Potter called the February 04, 2020 agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Chairperson Elmore who arrived at 6:35 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President

WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – February 04, 2020

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President Potter called the regular meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 04, 2020.

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 council were present:

Karen Conison  
Wes Kantor  
Jo Anna Heck  
Larry Morrison  
Bob Bailey  
Chris Rodriguez  
Lori Elmore

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Conison moved to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2020, agenda and regular meeting. 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 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 Elmore reported that they met last Tuesday and their minutes are on file. They have no pending legislation and 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 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 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 welcomed everyone there this evening and she had no official report.

City Attorney Michael Bivens – he thanked the audience for their attendance. He said the official report from the City Attorney's office is that during the month of January 2020, Whitehall Mayors Court prosecuted 230 cases with 21 of those cases committed by Whitehall residents. That is about 9%. He advised President Potter when he delineates the cases that are Whitehall residents, those cases tend to be cases that are property crimes, thefts, things that are of a more serious nature. He delineates those out and only 21 cases of those 230 cases were committed by Whitehall residents and that is the City Attorneys report.

City Auditor Dan Miller – he had no official report. He asked for favorable consideration on Ordinance 007-2020 and Resolutions 002-2020 and 003-2020.

Director of Public Service and Development Zach Woodruff – he wanted to take a couple minutes to go over the legislation that has been widely talked about Ordinance 002-2020 and Ordinance 03-2020. For the folks who are watching at home, I apologize you will not be able to see the slides that I have up at council. However, they are available on our website, on the homepage for anyone who would like them. As we have talked about this legislation, I have obviously spoken with a number of you, councilmembers the first question that has been asked is are we doing what is legal, are we doing what is right, are we violating people's civil liberties and the answer quite frankly is no, we are not violating anyone's civil liberties or the constitution. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court in California v. Ciraolo specifically addresses this issue. What a person chooses to voluntarily expose to the public view loses 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment protection, meaning that if you put things out in your rear yard in public or plain view, as it is considered, then it is not subject to the same privacy as it would if it was inside your house. If it was inside your house, yes we would need a warrant. But, if it is in a yard then we do not need a warrant. This issue is in many central Ohio communities that prohibit the parking of vehicles on the grass. Again, Columbus, Reynoldsburg, Bexley, Gahanna, Hilliard, Westerville, Grove City, Dublin, Upper Arlington. There are addition communities that have different regulations. Most of those communities have well established, in a number of HOA's so the city doesn't need to regulate it because the HOA's regulate it. The idea that you can do whatever you want in your backyard, especially if you have a privacy fence is also something that is not based in fact. We have existing Whitehall zoning code that presently regulates a number of issues in people's backyards, whether it is weeds or tall grass, litter and trash, swimming pools, or barking dogs. A number of you were on council when we had the conversation about farm animals and livestock. We regulate people owning roosters in their rear yards. So, we regulate all kinds of things. I know the idea that I can do whatever I want on my property is something that people like to say. However, if your neighbor wanted to open up a tire recycling plant in their yard, we would have regulations against that. So, that is the purpose of having regulations. By all means, people are free and allowed to own property in this country. Absolutely. No question about that. How you utilize that property is in fact something that is regulated by the government, whether that be federal, state or local. In fact, if you wanted to start burning tires in your back yard tomorrow there would be no less than four to six agencies on a federal and state level that would tell you to stop. So, you are not free to do just whatever you want in your rear yard. Because you cannot have really tall grass in your back yard, because you cannot have trash in your back yard. These are the things that we regulate currently in people's back yards and these are some of the issues that we have had. There has also been a question about how we are going to enforce this. I can tell you that the Service Department plans to

enforce this the same way we enforce all of the other codes. Our Code Enforcement Officers begin when a potential violation is either seen from the right-of-way or the road or from a resident complaint. If we can see the potential violation from the right-of-way or with permission from a neighbor from a neighbor's property, we have then a right to document that potential violation. So, the pictures you just saw either came from the fact that we could see the violation from the road or we got permission from the neighbor. For this particular code section, so I know again this has been a particular point that I heard is circulating, the Code Enforcement Department may utilize additional tools following a complaint. So, public record images from the Franklin County Auditor or web based aerial pictures, such as Google Earth, but again, that is just after we have observed a possible violation on a complaint we received from a neighbor or from the street. We also understand that those pictures are typically dated two to three years; we are also going to check with the Building Department to see if any additional building permits have been obtained and work done that maybe there is an improved surface that again did not show up in any of our other means of investigation. It is at that time we will issue a notice of violation if those things did not occur, so again it is not different than us becoming aware of these issues. We certainly are not going to sit and use Google Earth to fly up and down every street in Whitehall looking for these violations. I have also heard the question asked, doesn't the current code address this. So, I would point you to this picture. While we have current code that would certainly regulate the tall grass and we have regulation that speaks to the car maybe with the blue tarp be considered junk or inoperable, the rest of the vehicles do not violate current code. There has also been, going back to these aerial photos, there has also been an assumption again that we are only using Google Earth or the Franklin County Auditors website. The reason I have shown City Council those pictures a number of weeks ago was nearly to demonstrate to you how bad the problem is. So, I will point to this picture. There is nothing illegal or wrong with this in code. I also do not really know that this picture gives you a sense of how bad it is. I want you, when I go to the next picture, to just keep your eye on the yellow bus, because it is still there in the aerial photo from a number of years ago. I was merely showing you that there is a difference when you look at it, like this picture, which I do not think gives you the full scope of how bad it is until you go to the aerial. I was in no means suggesting we are only going to use these aerial photos as a way to crack down if this code is enforced. That is not our goal. It was to merely demonstrate a problem. Same thing here. You look at this picture from the neighbor and think, ok, well alright, well I don't know, it doesn't look so bad except when you pull up the aerial and realize it is nineteen cars. Same thing here, I know I talked to a number of you about this picture, and again, the idea here is that, it wasn't that great and the neighbor shouldn't have to look at it but then again you go to the aerial, now you can see all the junk and vehicles behind the car. Again, the goal is not only use aerials but in fact to show you the difference in perspective. So, the resident who was here a number of weeks ago, that was the feature of the Whitehall News was concerned that he was going to have to come into compliance on this issue. The fact of the matter is; he is grandfathered by the very nature of how his house is set up. He has a gravel driveway. We allow for grandfathered gravel driveways. But, years ago City Council determined that the minimum standard for new driveways in Whitehall was either asphalt or concrete. We do not allow new gravel driveways. So, the resident who was here, his house really doesn't have a backyard, it almost entirely backs up to the alley. All of his vehicles, he was so concerned about and thought he was going to have to spend seven thousand dollars on a driveway, are either parked on a concrete parking pad or in his gravel driveway. Both of which would be grandfathered, in fact, our current code allows for that. He has all of his vehicles in the side or front. None of them are in the back and so what is interesting, we actually had gone over to his house and talked to him about what this legislation actually does and doesn't do and now he has a completely different understanding about what we are trying to regulate because he is grandfathered. People with gravel driveways are allowed to repair, fix and maintain their gravel driveways but if you have a concrete driveway and you want to go to gravel, we don't allow that. I think this Council, and I think the majority of you are not going to hear from many residents who are in favor of this ordinance because many of the residents that call code enforcement for every issue, many of them don't want to be identified for fear of conflict with their neighbors. I am in no way trying to suggest of a physical altercation but they don't want any conflict with their neighbors. They don't want to be the person who their neighbor is mad at because they called code enforcement, so you are not going to hear from the vast majority of residents who I think will be in favor of this. I will also end with this, improving the quality of life for residents is in fact one of our jobs. It's the reason we don't allow dogs to

bark for more than fifteen minutes. We don't make the argument well that is their private property and it is their dog so the dog can bark as long as it wants even if it disturbs and diminishes your quality of life. We don't allow that for a number of different things, whether it is smell, I don't think that you can make the argument well we should allow residents to do whatever they want in their back yard. We don't have that standard anywhere else. This is not taking away anyone's liberties. This is not trying to kick anyone out of Whitehall or some attack on a subset of people. I was told that this is somehow an attack on low income people of Whitehall. I think that is interesting that it is the low income people of Whitehall apparently that own four campers, three boats and two cars. I think this is a quality of life issue. I think we are doing it for the right reasons. I think you have heard from our Code Enforcement Officers a number of weeks ago that told you this problem is not getting better, it is getting worse and while I understand it is a small percentage of the residents that are abusing this problem. My question to Council would be, at what percentage is it? If it is ten percent today, what if it is thirty percent in four years, what if it is fifty percent in six years because this is not a problem that gets better because we allow it to continue. It has gotten worse over the last two years. It is only going to get worse as we continue to allow this minimum standard to not be raised. That is the only report that I have this evening Mr. President. I appreciate the time.

Public Safety Director Van Gregg – was not present

Treasurer Steve Quincel – he had no official report.

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

1. Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new C1 liquor permit for 4352 E. BROAD ST. LLC., 4352 E. BROAD ST., WHITEHALL, OHIO 43213.
2. Minutes for the January 09, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Agenda for the February 06, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting.

#### VERIFICATION OF COPIES:

President Potter 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:

THERE IS NO LEGISLATION FOR THIRD READING.

#### SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 002-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 903.32 PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON LAWNS PROHIBITED TO INCLUDE REAR YARDS.

ORDINANCE NO. 003-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 1126.13, LIMITATION OF PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS TO ADD A LOT MAXIMUM FOR IMPERVIOUS PARKING AREA.

ORDINANCE NO. 004-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING SECTION 1123.10 (C) TITLED GENERAL COMMERCE DISTRICT SPECIAL PERMIT USES IN THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL TO ADD BREWERY AND DISTILLERY FACILITIES.

ORDINANCE NO. 005-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AMENDING 1125.17 (d) STORAGE OF GARBAGE AT NONRESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 006-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

***Refer to Planning Commission for 02/06/2020 & Public Hearing on 03/03/2020***

AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATTACHED TO CHAPTER 1122 OF THE 1970 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, ALLOWING A SPECIAL PERMIT UNDER 1123.10(c)(37) TO ALLOW BUZZSAW BREWING COMPANY TO OPERATE A BREWERY FACILITY ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 951 A & B ROBINWOOD AVENUE, PARCEL 090-000311-00, PROPERTY OWNED BY CHARTER PROPERTIES.

ORDINANCE NO. 007-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$500,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE OPWC-ISSUE 2 FUND (309) TO THE NORTH YEARLING RD IMPROVEMENT LOAN EXPENSE ACCOUNT (309.000.54500) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 007-2020 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 007-2020 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Ordinance No. 007-2020 and Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 007-2020 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

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

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 002-2020 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 002-2020 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt Resolution No. 002-2020 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 002-2020 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2020 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP (BVP) GRANT; MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$750.00) TO THE 2019 BULLETPROOF VESTS EXPENSE ACCOUNT (267.000.53000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Conison introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 003-2020 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 003-2020 was suspended.

Ms. Conison moved to adopt Resolution No. 003-2020 and Mr. Kantor seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Resolution No. 003-2020 was adopted.

POLL PUBLIC:

Gerald Dixon, 3877 Doney Street, Whitehall, OH 43213 said two weeks ago he stood before council for the first time in over a year to address legislation he felt was wrong. He was told by the new President of Council that a second address on this topic was disallowed. So for the first time in eleven years he was told to sit down. Historically (?) it was determined that three minutes wasn't enough to adequately say what you needed to say on a topic which seemed fine to use the second poll public to finish one's thoughts. Never was there a time, while the rule may have well always been present was it even enforced. Of course Mr. Potter simply doing what (?) voted for to (?) could be said to be just doing his job. My concerns though lie underneath this. It is no secret Mr. Potter headed up the political campaign which raised nearly \$40,000.00 to get elected officials third terms in office. (?) which the Mayor helped with, in which she and some on council benefited from. So too, she promoted him for the office he now holds with literature paid for by her political committee. As well, we know that Mr. Potter (?) WCIC, an agency of the city and as seen at various city events. As such, he is an associate of Mayor Maggard's in their mutual efforts to change the face of Whitehall. This gives rise then to the natural assumption of the alliance between Council President Potter and the Mayor given any mutual, personal, civic vision they seem to share. The power of which, given conflicts of interest, lends a capacity to blur the lines between their duty and obligation towards citizens and the (?) of the efforts of their shared work. So then, given all the mutuality they bring with them to the people's government seemingly unaware of these conflicts damage and erosion to the public trust, the Maggard administration introduces legislation which purports to increase property values. That which falls into line with the work of the Mayor and Mr. Potter. Vocal do-gooder, critical citizen steps forward and speaks out publicly against this legislation claiming it infringes on rights. Council President Potter then invokes a rule, unseen by me, which stops the speech. Given the (?) the conflicts of interest present inherently give rise to justified suspicion. Given the time, energy and money invested in his and the Mayors vision, coupled with (?) council it is no stretch of the imagination to feel then that his power as Council President could be implemented to squelch any and all citizens (?) which runs counter to his and their works. That scenario, which is both an alarming and credible concern. Thank you.

Chairperson Bailey said Mr. President, to Mr. Dixons point, in our Rules of Order for Council, we did in fact include and vote on and pass a clause that an individual could only speak one time on a certain topic but still that individual would have two opportunities to speak on something else of their choice. To Mr. Dixons defense, on our website, where it lists the Rules of Council, that was omitted and I think in your paperwork, I forget the section.

President Potter said Section VIII.

Chairperson Bailey said it does state (voice trails off).

Chairperson Elmore said it was not omitted, it was (voice trails off).

Chairperson Bailey said it is not on the website and we need to correct that.

President Potter said he concurred. It is Article VIII, Section C.

Chairperson Bailey said a bit of history at the time we passed that, some of us were here then, we did remove the need for an individual before he spoke, to fill out a card to identify the subject he wished to speak on and at that time it could be denied and his name not called. So, when we did continue this limitation on the number of times you could speak on a certain subject, we did remove the need for signing that card which he thought was a good idea. We do need to get that corrected on the website.

President Potter said he agreed and it would be addressed.

Jim Graham, 644 Greenwood Rd., Whitehall, OH 43213 said he had something he felt was important and should be entered into record. The January 27, 2020 issue of the Dispatch reported that the median sale price of a home for sale in Whitehall jumped 16.7 percent from 2018 to 2019. That was following a 14.95 percent in 2018. In fact, we outpaced all other central Ohio cities in home price appreciation for the second year running. The reason it was stated in the article is because the area has changed and it is affordable. That is great for the residents and it is attractive to those considering on moving here as well as those who are wishing to sell their home. I want you to consider this scenario carefully as I describe it to you. A resident decides to put their home up for sale to take advantage of the increased property values. Several prospective buyers look at the property and they are excited at the prospect of moving into a community that is on the move and one where it seems their investment will be a good one. Until, they go into the backyard where there are multiple vehicles, a boat or camper that appear to be in questionable condition in the neighbor's yard. Not on a driveway, or parked on gravel or concrete but on the grass. Put yourselves in the position of the seller who has taken care of their property but does not get the fair value of their price because the city has failed to live up to its part of the bargain for residents or the buyer who thought they had found the perfect house in a city they heard was changing to meet the needs of its residents and was also affordable. So, what would you do as the owner knowing the condition of the neighbor's backyard is hurting the sale of your home? I will tell you what I would do. I would drop the price to sell because the city I live in, I feel, would have failed me. What would you do as the buyer? Again, I am going to tell you what I would do. I am going to look somewhere else. Just like most people would. All I can ask is that you strongly consider passage of Ordinance 002-2020 to protect everyone's property values and after seeing the presentation that was put on here tonight, I dare any of you to come up with one legitimate reason why you cannot vote in favor of passage. Thank you.

Phillip Stoughton, 89 Collingwood Ave., Whitehall, OH 43213 said he is a fourth generation owner of his property. My great-grandparents built it, my grandparents lived there, my dad lived there all his life. My grandpa was a fireman, served on the Whitehall Fire Department. I have pictures of Town and County being built. I have lived here all my life. Well, little bit of that goes on and I get stuff stolen out of my yard. I have a camper; I have a boat. I have two children 19 years old. One comes home from college. I have multiple cars. My lot is not wide but it is 700 foot deep. The backyard is opened up. I mow everybody's yard from Doney to Broad Street. I never blink an eye at it because it is like a field. I grew up from the trees being this big to the trees being this big now. But guess what? I still mow it like my grandpa did. I take care of everybody. I came to this city one day, walked in and said Hey, I would like to build a pole barn to put my boat, my camper, all this stuff, so my stuff quits getting stolen. My rototiller got stolen. My push mower got stolen. What can I do? No problem, no stipulations, you bring me the plans and you can build it. I come here, I ask to build the thing, I drew a lot plan and had everything set up. Well, the city says nope, we do not feel it is in our best interest for you to improve your property. So, my thing is, you guys are saying we can't park stuff outside. You can't park it, you can't park your camper but when I asked to build a building to put it in, so I have a second garage, that is what it was classified as, I was going to use it as a pole building for storage, I am told it was not in the city's best interest. Why? Because I wanted to improve my property. I want to have the best looking house on the street. I want my neighbors to be able to walk outside and say there is not a camper sitting there. There's not a boat sitting there. But, at this time, you know, I think the passage of it is disagreeable. If I cannot build a building to store my stuff, why should I be penalized to be told, build a fence around my yard so nobody can see the stuff or move. Basically, that is what I was told. If I don't like it, get out. I feel that when I came to the city and paid my \$88.00 to get a



zoning permit awarded, I didn't feel I was fairly met. I was a little upset. I am still upset. I am sorry about the way I see it, but I have all this stuff in my thing, I want to clean it up. I want to do something but the city won't work with me. So, for me to agree on doing certain things, hey, I think we all need to work together on stuff. I should be able to come down and ask for a building permit. I should have more than one time to just be told to get things cleaned up. It is not in our best interest.

Patrick Legg Jr, 95 Collingwood Ave., Whitehall, OH 43213 said he is Phillips neighbor. Again, I am the third generation in this house. It was my grandparents' house then my parents owned it. Now I own it. Whitehall is all I have ever known. It is where I was born and raised. I do not know any other town or how any other things work. This house is all I have. I know I am not a perfect model citizen and I do not keep everything one hundred percent spotless. Some of the vehicle I have had at my home aren't in the grass, they are on gravel. My driveway is gravel and has always been gravel. In fact, between my house and my neighbor's house there actually used to be a horseshoe driveway of gravel. My grandparents and his grandparents had some disagreements some years ago and they kind of did away with that back then. Phillip and I have been best friends almost all our lives. He grew up there with his grandparents and I grew up with my grandparents. We try to work together to help each other out. As far as his pole barn being built, I feel that he should be able to do that. He doesn't operate a business from his home. He has a place of business where he conducts his business from at a different location. These are things he is trying to store to keep his personal belongings safe. I have children, he has children, all our neighbors have children. Our yards are wide open. We have big parties, we have bounce houses and we invite all the neighbors to come over and join us. We have cookouts together, pony rides, a petting zoo. We are a community. The five, six, seven houses all next to us all have children. We all try to work together and enjoy our time together but to put a fence up is going to separate that from us. I don't agree with that. I don't think putting a fence up around the property is the best thing. I think he should be allowed to put up a barn so he can store his belongings in. He does donate his time, his money and his labor to mow everyone's backyards. I just feel that he should be able to do these things. Thank you.

#### COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

Chairperson Conison said this Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the YMCA they will be showing the movie Toy Story 4.

Chairperson Kantor said first off congratulations to our Lady Rams basketball team. They had a phenomenal season. They are in first place right now in the league. They are playing at Bexley tonight. They are the number three seed in the tournament. They play Monday night at home against Linden McKinley. The winner will play against Licking Valley on Friday. He hopes to see some people out there. Go Rams.

#### POLL COUNCIL:

Ms. Conison thanked everyone for coming and sharing your stories and they definitely appreciate that.

Mr. Kantor thanked everyone for watching and tuning in. He thanked everyone for calling him and he greatly appreciate that. He thanked Mr. Legg and Mr. Stoughton and said he is familiar with their area and he greatly appreciates them coming in. Sometimes it is hard to come in and talk and he knows that. They will be talking about it again on Tuesday and we will go from there. He thanked them again for coming tonight.

Ms. Heck thanked everyone who came in tonight and spoke and those who just came in to hear what was going on with council. She thanked everyone who tuned in from home also.

Mr. Morrison thanked everyone for coming in and voicing their views on varying subjects. He thanked everyone for watching and hopes everyone has a good week.

Mr. Bailey thanked everyone for attending tonight and he really wanted to thank Director Woodruff for his presentation and appreciates the information that was shared with them tonight. He told Mr. Stoughton that he wanted to follow up with his situation and maybe understand it a little better. It sounded like some of the terminology might be the problem. A pole barn is defiantly not allowed but a garage is, so maybe it will help me to understand that. To close, he wanted to congratulate Jo Anna on her position with the Whitehall school district.

Mr. Rodriguez said it was good to see a mix of folks there tonight. There were a lot of good comments tonight.

Ms. Elmore thanked the residents that spoke tonight. It takes a lot of courage to come up and speak and she appreciates hearing their input. This is Black History Month and she had a few things she wanted to comment regarding that. With it being Black History Month, moral courage is the courage it takes to take action for moral reasons despite the risk of adverse consequences. Courage is required to take action when one has doubts or fears about the consequences. Moral courage therefore involves deliberation and careful thought. Moral courage enables leaders to live with integrity, act to uphold the loyalty to those that are under their authority and to execute their duties with confidence. Moral courage is equally important to leadership and business, nonprofit, political and any other type of organization. Moral courage is seen in individuals who when they uncover the unethical dilemma and explore a course of action based on their ethical values and follow through with a decision as to the right course of action regardless of the possible consequences this course of action might present. February is the month we celebrate black history, but she believes black history has been the history of this nation. History is his-story. She is reminded of the four black students who exhibited moral courage in the face of systemic racism or Rosa Parks who took a stand on the bus or Fredrick Douglas, an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer and statesman or the Ward family from Whitehall and their contribution to this Whitehall community. However, systemic racism existed four hundred years ago and is still present today. When she and her husband are told to go back where they came from, she is perplexed. She was born in Columbus, Ohio. With an ancestry line of kings, queens, hunters, gatherers and warriors. She and her husband chose to move to Whitehall and she is glad it is not the sentiment of most Whitehall residents in this community. She believes we are faced with this crossroad and or conflict of acting with moral courage. If we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it. So, this month and everyday challenge yourselves to speak up and be courageous and exhibit moral courage. Dr. Martin Luther King said in his speech, I feel like I am leading my people into a burning building. He stated that because he was conflicted in the spirit with the charge he had been leading in the civil rights movement. Don't let history repeat itself. Learn from it and stand up with moral courage. In closing, I will take a hashtag from Emilia Sykes, a minority leader down at the statehouse of legislation. #Webelonghere. Thank you.

President Potter thanked Chairperson Elmore and thanked everyone for coming out this evening, sharing your thoughts, feelings and concerns. He thanked the folks who have tuned in from home.

Having nothing further, Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Thomas M. Potter, Council President