

EMERGENCY SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2021

President Potter called the Emergency Special Meeting of Whitehall City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

On roll call by the clerk, the following members of council were present:

Chris Rodriguez
Larry Morrison
Jo Anna Heck
Karen Conison
Lori Elmore
Robert Bailey

Mr. Bailey moved to excuse the absent member and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members responded in the affirmative and Chairperson Kantor was excused.

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 present members responded in the affirmative.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 073-2021 was read by title only by President Potter:

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AND TO SIGN THE ONEOHIO SUBDIVISION PARTICIPATION FORM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bailey introduced and moved to suspend the rules on Ordinance No. 073-2021 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

City Attorney Michael Bivens gave Council and the public insight into this legislation. This is the culmination of about four years of negotiations between many jurisdictions and states as it relates to the opiate crisis that plagues the United States. Ohio is one of the jurisdictions and the Mayor and he met with the Governor as well as at least one hundred jurisdictions over a year ago before the pandemic. They were discussing the OneOhio Initiative and them, as jurisdictions coming together so that they could initiate this type of settlement. As a result, this landmark and groundbreaking settlement agreement with all of the multi-states is in excess of twenty-six billion dollars with Ohio earmarked to get at least over one billion dollars as it relates to Ohio's cut of the settlement agreement. What the settlement agreement will do and why it is important for Council to accept this legislation to allow the Mayor to enter into an agreement, the City has to opt-in as it relates to our participation and our want, to be a part of this settlement agreement. It is not an opt-out situation, you have to actually opt-in to be a part of it. The money and the resources that will go into this is for community recovery. There will be a statewide foundation and then a portion of it

will go to the State. It is not clearly defined but with Whitehall's record and as it relates to the City's opiate initiative and what they have done he believes they will put themselves in a very decent to receive some of the settlement money. With Councils approval, we would ask for favorable consideration of Ordinance 073-2021 so they may opt-in as a jurisdiction with the settlement.

On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 073-2021 was suspended.

Mr. Bailey then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 073-2021 and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative and Ordinance No. 073-2021 was adopted.

Having nothing further, Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members responded in the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2021.

Thomas M. Potter, Council President