

WHITEHALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MINUTES – August 25, 2020

Council President Potter called the August 25, 2020 Council Committees' meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The following members of council and the administration were present:

Members of the Administration
Council President Thomas Potter
Mayor Kim Maggard

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ORDINANCE NO. 063-2020 - DRAFT # 1

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL OF OHIO (PEP), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Maggard said beginning in October of 2019 was the first year with the PEP pool. It is time for insurance renewal as the city's insurance always expires at 11:59 pm on October the 2nd. They are currently in negotiations in the PEP pool. They have done excellent work for the city. This year has been a weird year with two flooding's and they covered a lot of that damage with minimal increase in this year's premium. The terms are better. Prior contracts only covered \$50,000.00 worth of damage and the PEP covers \$100,000.00. She believes it is important that the city stay with them but this ordinance is required because it is a public entity pool and is required to be passed by Council on a yearly basis. She is asking that this ordinance be passed on 2nd reading as the deadline is October 2nd. She is asking for their consideration on 2nd reading.

President Potter asked if the contract was the same as last years?

Mayor Maggard said yes it is. She said that when she gets an updated contract she will make sure Council is given a copy. The date and the amount of the premium will be different than the contract that Council has before them.

There will be a decision on first and second at the next committee meeting.

(Comm. Of the Whole – 2nd reading – ADOPT 09/15/2020– /)

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Chairperson Bailey opened at 6:33 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 028-2020 - DRAFT # 2

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

There was no discussion on Resolution No. 028-2020.

(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 1st reading – ADOPT 09/01/2020–Rodriguez/Conison)

SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 061-2020 *(Admin/Fin. Mgmt. – 2nd reading – ADOPT 09/01/2020–Rodriguez/Morrison)*
APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$40,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND 101 TO THE INCOME TAX REFUNDS EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.350.57000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Having no further business, Chairperson Bailey closed at 6:35 p.m.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Chairperson Rodriguez opened at 6:35 p.m. and addressed the legislation in his committee, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 064-2020 - DRAFT # 3
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF 505.23 “FEEDING OF WATERFOWL PROHIBITED” TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Maggard said there have been many complaints about the amount of geese that are on Ross Road. There are three to five houses which are feeding the geese for some time now. It has gotten so bad that the excrement from the geese is causing respiratory issues for some neighbors in the area. The geese have been blocking traffic and are causing a nuisance. Currently the code states that we can cite those individual into court for having noxious and hazardous materials but we do not have anything that would prevent them from feeding the geese and that is why the geese continue to stay and continue to multiply. As most of you know, Canadian geese are a protected species under the law so the City is limited on what it can do so we do not hurt them. One of the things we can do is to prohibit the feeding of migratory water fowl which means they go away during certain seasons and then return. Basically this ordinance prohibits the feeding of migratory waterfowl and it also gives some definitions as to what is prohibited. In order to try to get a handle on this issue on Ross Road and other areas of the city we believe this is the best way to go. These are not considered pets and people can still continue to feed the birds with their bird feeders such as robins, sparrows, orioles and blue jays. This ordinance does not prohibit that but does prohibit the feeding of waterfowl. She asked that Council consider passing this on emergency so they can begin to get a handle on this issue. It is up to you as to when you want to pass it but if you have any question feel free to ask.

Chairperson Bailey said you have to look at things from every angle and if someone disputes this they do have an opportunity where it says exceptions to this will only be granted through state and/or federal permitting process. He would imagine a resident going through that process or trying to would be difficult. He likes what the Mayor has done and he does not know why they didn't think about this approach to waterfowl awhile back. This has been an issue for quite some time.

Chairperson Morrison said this has been an issue for three or so years and at one time there was only one person feeding and code enforcement called them in a few times but now there are three different residents feeding them. You can go down Ross Road and at times there might be fifty to sixty geese with just a couple of blocks. It is a real mess.

President Potter asked if the plan to execute this would be to send out letters to all the residents in the affect area telling them what is going on or would it be to have code enforcement do it.

Mayor Maggard said that code enforcement would go to the homes where the geese are congregating and let them know and advise them that they need to stop feeding the geese. Some of the owners have been cited recently for the noxious excrement's and odors that have been caused. It gets on the sidewalk and makes it dangerous for children and residents who are walking on the sidewalk.

Chairperson Kantor asked what the penalty would be under law? He is in favor of passing this on the first reading but as everyone knows he is not a fan of first reading passage.

Mayor Maggard said she did not know but she would get that info for Council.

Chairperson Morrison said the one resident who has been to court for feeding the geese said he would no longer do it. This person continues to feed the geese and he says he spends more on food for them than it costs him in fines so he is not worried about it.

Mayor Maggard said they plan on using the media to get word out about not feeding the geese because it is important that we do not interfere with migratory waterfowl.

Chairperson Elmore asked what the Department of Natural Resources says as far as moving them?

Mayor Maggard said they would need to be involved in that as the city cannot do that on their own. It can be a felony to kill one, to move a nest or break an egg. If something like that was to have to happen then the Department of Natural Resources would be called so they could be involved.

(Comm. Stand. & Enf. – 1st reading – ADOPT 09/01/2020–Rodriguez/Kantor)

Having nothing further, Chairperson Rodriguez closed at 6:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY

Chairperson Elmore opened at 6:45 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Chairperson Elmore reminded everyone to come join the Urban League and Franklin County Jobs and Family Services on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at the loading dock area of Target, noon until 3:00 pm for the Safe Saturday initiative. There will be sanitizer and gloves along with food and a raffle ticket.

There was discussion as to whether this was a public event and everyone was welcome or was it by invitation only.

Chairperson Conison said it takes time to learn a new behavior. It takes up to sixty-six days. She hopes they will continue this on.

Having no further business, Chairperson Elmore closed at 6:49 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson Morrison opened at 6:49 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Chairperson Bailey said he is seeing increased activity over at the old Robinwood School site and that it was nice to see it.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Morrison closed at 6:49 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

Chairperson Heck opened at 6:49 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

There was no discussion in Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Heck closed at 6:49 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairperson Conison opened at 6:50 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Chairperson Conison said she has been doing some research about when Chief Crispen was here and he spoke about the civil service testing and how hard it was to go ahead and pass that. She has been googling and there are some different classes online and some different tutors and such. She is going to get with the Chief and let him know about her research and maybe that is something the city might look into and budget for them.

Chairperson Kantor said to remember the sacrifice that Officer Terry McDowell gave nineteen years ago yesterday. His family and friends are still in their prayers. He is an Officer they will never forget.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Conison closed at 6:51 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Chairperson Kantor opened at 6:51 p.m. and said there are no drafts or pending legislation on the agenda.

Chairperson Kantor said football is going good. Whitehall Youth Baseball is coming to an end this week. He will have some more information on the outstanding job they did this year. He has had a couple of phone call on some issues. The senior center, he spoke with Director Sorrell and she told him the Governor has said that senior centers can open on September 21st, however, they are waiting on more guidelines. When that is done, she will meet with the administration to create a plan. The construction is now completed at the YMCA. You cannot drive down to the lower level. The gates are locked because there are no park rangers. It is open to walk down and look at the beautiful wild flowers.

Mayor Maggard said the reason there are no park rangers is because budget cuts were made due to the pandemic. Hard decisions had to be made and that was one of them. She is meeting with Shannon on Thursday so they can go over the guidelines for reopening the senior center. The issue is that the senior center is not an official senior center. It is a club and they do not have staff posted there. Having someone to monitor that is going to be extremely difficult. Right now the guidelines say you can only have so many people there at one time, they have to socially distance and of course everyone would need to wear a mask. How are we going to make sure those rules are followed? Prior to the pandemic, members would just come and go. Some of the members have keys and they open and close the building. She does not know how you can task a member with that type of responsibility to make sure everyone is following the rules. The building will need to be cleaned and sanitized after every use.

There was discussion on the senior center and what would need to be done prior to opening the center.

Chairperson Bailey said he assumed their governing body would be included in those discussions.

Mayor Maggard said yes, after they dive into the regulations. She said she was having trouble finding the regulations because the link was broken.

There was additional discussion on the senior center and it was determined that additional staffing would be needed to enforce the regulations. It will be totally different than what the senior center members have been used to. It was agreed upon that the members need socialization.

Having nothing further, Chairperson Kantor closed at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council