

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 p.m., Council Chamber at City Hall by President Thomas Potter

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Lori Elmore
Larry Morrison
Amy Harcar
Mike Adkins
Brian McCann
Gerald Dixon
Devin Brown

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 16, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026 Agenda & Regular Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Tom Ricchiuto, Senior Manager, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors
Department On Neighborhoods

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Elmore
Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Harcar
Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson McCann
Economic Development – Chairperson Dixon
Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services – Chairperson Brown
Public Safety – Chairperson Morrison
Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Adkins

OFFICIALS' REPORTS:

Mayor Michael T. Bivens

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus

City Auditor Shaquille Alexander

Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands

Director of Public Safety Van Gregg

Treasurer Trevel Balser

President Thomas M. Potter

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

POLL PUBLIC:

VERIFICATION OF COPIES:

Roll call on whether each member of the Council was given a copy of each item of legislation listed on the agenda prior to the meeting and including any add-on legislation.

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2026

AMENDING ORDINANCE 118-2025, MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR CURRENT GENERAL FUND (101) EXPENSES, FOR THE DEPARTMENT ON NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

SECOND READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2026

APPROVING REVISIONS TO THE INVESTMENT POLICY OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 011-2026

AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE MAY 2026 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 012-2026

AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED AND THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY TWO AND THIRTY SEVEN CENTS (\$203,342.37) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WIMPITE FUND 279 TO THE HAMILTON/BROAD TIF 90-339 EXPENSE ACCOUNT 279.000.50009 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 013-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND 42/100 DOLLARS (\$68,650.42) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND (401).

ORDINANCE NO. 014-2026

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND NINETY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,090.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND (212) TO THE 212.000.50010 OHIO TRAFFIC SAFETY OFFICE GRANT (OTSO) EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

ORDINANCE NO. 015-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,306.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE EVIDENCE SETASIDE FUND (245) TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (241) AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ON THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,306.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (241) TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (241.000.50000).

ORDINANCE NO. 016-2026

APPROVING AND MAKING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY AND 89/100 DOLLARS (\$57,920.89) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND (401).

ORDINANCE NO. 017-2026

MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/00 DOLLARS (\$25,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE RECREATION TRUST FUND (860) TO THE RECREATION TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (860.000.50000) AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 018-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 13/100 DOLLARS (\$151,582.13) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE INSPECTION DEPOSIT TRUST FUND (804) AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ON THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 13/100 DOLLARS (\$151,582.13) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE INSPECTION DEPOSIT TRUST FUND (804) TO THE INSPECTION DEPOSIT TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (804.000.50000).

ORDINANCE NO. 019-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN AND 94/100 DOLLARS (\$9,347.94) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE PLUMBING PERMITS FUND (851) AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ON THE AMOUNT OF NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN AND 94/100 DOLLARS (\$9,347.94) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE PLUMBING PERMITS FUND (851) TO THE PLUMBING PERMITS EXPENSE ACCOUNT (851.000.50000).

RESOLUTION NO. 007-2026

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN IRVIN AS THE 2025 LABOR /SERVICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 008-2026

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN MOONEY AS THE 2025 FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2026

RECOGNIZING JASON KUBINSKI AS THE 2025 POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 010-2026

RECOGNIZING JULIE OGG AS THE 2025 ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HER A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

POLL PUBLIC:

MOTIONS ON 2026-2027 RULES OF PROCEDURE

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

POLL COUNCIL:

ELMORE; MORRISON; HARCAR; ADKINS; MCCANN; DIXON; BROWN

ADJOURN

City of Whitehall

City Council Special Meeting

February 16, 2026 Meeting minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Whitehall City Council was called to order at 5:20 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026. President Potter called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the session.

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilor Dixon, Councilor Brown, Councilor Morrison, Councilor Harcar, Councilor Adkins, Councilor McCann, and President Potter.

Motion by Councilor Adkins, seconded by Councilor Harcar, to excuse Councilor Elmore who was absent at the time of roll call.

Vote: Yes - Dixon, Brown, Morrison, Harcar Adkins, McCann, . Motion carried.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, PURSUANT TO R.C. SECTION 121.22(G)(1), TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

President Potter explained that there were four candidates, but only two would be interviewed for the appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The interviews would take place in executive session.

Motion by Councilor Brown, seconded by Councilor Dixon, to adjourn into executive session pursuant to R.C. Section 121.22(G)(1) to interview candidates for the appointment to the appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Vote: Yes - Dixon, Brown, Morrison, Harcar, Adkins, McCann. Motion carried.

Council adjourned to executive session 5:22 pm.

RECONVENE

Council reconvened from executive session at 6:21 PM. President Potter reported that they had finished an interview, but one candidate did not attend and could not be reached when contacted.

DISCUSSION

President Potter presented the options available to Council: they could take a motion to appoint the one candidate interviewed, postpone the decision to the following day, or take another direction as determined by the Parks and Recreation chairperson.

Councilmember Dixon expressed concern about the absent candidate, questioning whether they should determine if there were legitimate reasons for the absence before proceeding. President Potter acknowledged this was a valid point but noted that with current cell phone technology, the candidate could have notified them of any issues.

Councilmember Dixon suggested waiting a day to allow staff to reach out to the absent candidate. Several members agreed this would be appropriate to ensure nothing catastrophic had happened to prevent their attendance, though President Potter emphasized that the threshold for considering a reschedule would need to be "something pretty significant."

A council member raised concerns about having only one candidate and asked if they could extend the deadline or repost the position to attract more applicants. It was clarified that the 30-day deadline requirement that applies to council seat appointments does not apply to Parks and Recreation Commission appointments.

The discussion revealed that re-advertising would be costly, with previous advertisements costing approximately \$800. It was confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Commission could continue to function with a quorum while this position remained vacant.

The Council ultimately decided to wait until the following day to make a decision after learning more about the absent candidate's situation. President Potter noted that at tomorrow's meeting, they could either proceed with appointing the interviewed candidate or make other determinations based on new information.

It was clarified that the Council has the authority to appoint any person to the Commission, regardless of whether they were interviewed, through a simple majority vote of 4 members.

ADJOURN

President Potter thanked Council for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM.

Submitted by:

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 3, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

Whitehall City Council Meeting

February 17, 2026 Meeting minutes

President Potter ordered the Tuesday, February 17, 2026, agenda meeting at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 3, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

Whitehall City Council Meeting

February 17, 2026 Meeting minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Potter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and invited everyone to rise for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Ogg conducted roll call with all members present: Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Elmore, Councilmember Morrison, Councilmember Harcar, Councilmember Adkins, Councilmember McCann, and Councilmember Dixon.

Before proceeding with the regular agenda, Councilmember Adkins made a motion to appoint Leslie LaCorte to the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission. Councilmember McCann seconded the motion.

Councilmember Brown then made a motion to appoint Amanda Waller to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Councilmember Harcar seconded this nomination.

President Potter explained the procedure for handling the two nominations, noting that discussion would be opened first for Councilmember Adkins' nomination of Ms. LaCorte, followed by discussion of Councilmember Brown's nominee, with voting to proceed in the order nominations were made.

During the discussion of Ms. LaCorte's nomination, Councilmember Adkins spoke passionately about the candidate, stating, "I spoke with Miss LaCorte, and this is a lifelong dream for her, really, because everybody realizes who her dad was. And this is something that she really, really, really has a passion to do and really, really wants to do."

Councilmember McCann supported the nomination, noting Ms. LaCorte's qualifications: "I would just second that and that I think she's very well qualified. Her father is the one who started the Parks and Recreation Department in this city. And that in itself, of course, is not it. But she has a very professional background. She served twice on the city council here, and she's been involved with... the Police Academy."

When Councilmember Harcar asked why Ms. LaCourt didn't originally apply if this was a lifelong dream, Councilmember Atkins responded frankly: "Yeah. Pretty much. I mean, she's the way she was treated in these council chambers in the past is one big reason why."

Councilmember Elmore expressed reservations about the nomination, stating, "Miss LaCourt, although her father has his name on the amphitheater, I don't know of any qualifications that would make her a good appointment for Parks and Rec Commission. Secondly, she hasn't attended very many council meetings since she's been a counselor."

Discussion then turned to Ms. Waller's nomination. Councilmember Brown made a compelling case for her appointment: "She's demonstrated a keenness for specifically parks and rec, our green spaces in general. I know it's been commented on multiple times from people on council, not only how involved she's been, but the types of arguments and the perspective that she's brought on different issues. When we were talking about the Heartland expansion, she was I think the person that really gave an incredible argument as to why we need to preserve this space."

Councilmember Brown added that Ms. Waller was also involved with the Whitehall Historical Society and emphasized her demonstrated commitment to the community.

Following the discussion, the vote was taken on Ms. LaCorte's appointment. The roll call vote resulted in 4 yes votes (Morrison, Adkins, McCann, Dixon) and 3 no votes (Brown, Elmore, Harcar), resulting in Ms. LaCorte's appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Dixon moved to approve the minutes from February 2, 2026 (Agenda & Special Meeting), February 3, 2026 (Agenda & Regular Meeting), and February 10, 2026 (Agenda & Committee Meeting). Councilmember Morrison seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Michael T. Bivens – Black History Month

Mayor Bivens presented a video from Whitehall Yearling High School, where he had presented a Black History Month proclamation with the school's Black Culture Club. In the video, Mayor Bivens read the proclamation alongside students, which stated in part: "We, the City of Whitehall and the students of Whitehall Yearling High School, believe black history is more than a lesson, a chapter, or a single month. It is our lived experience, our identity, our culture, and our future, and it deserves to be told fully, honestly, and with respect."

The Mayor announced that the students would be conducting a program at Whitehall Yearling High School, with the date to be announced publicly once confirmed.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Golden, PMG

James Golden, founder and CEO of Payment Management Group (PMG), delivered an extensive presentation on pavement management services. He began by sharing his local roots: "A little fun fact, if you will. I actually grew up down the street. I grew up in Independence Village in Reynoldsburg. My father was a contractor at DSCC."

Mr. Golden explained that PMG has been providing pavement management services for 28 years, working with over 200 municipal clients nationwide. He emphasized the company's focus: "We are independent from your consulting engineers or your contractors. We're that expert value proposition for identifying the conditions of your roadways, working hand in hand as a team member as an extension of the city and staff to help drive better decision-making policies for your roadways."

He outlined PMG's comprehensive process, which includes network inventory, high-definition video capture, AI-based condition assessment, quality assurance, treatment qualification, budget-driven scenarios, and ongoing support. Mr. Golden stressed the importance of following scientific methodology: "We're following this ASTM standard, again, developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It's a scientific methodology."

Regarding costs, Mr. Golden provided context: "The average cost to mill and overlay one mile of roadway in Central Ohio is about a quarter million dollars." He explained how PMG's data-driven approach helps cities maximize their budgets and make informed decisions about road maintenance.

During the Q&A session, President Potter asked about the \$72.39 million figure shown in the presentation. Mr. Golden clarified: "That is the need of this specific roadway network... I'll give you a little bit more color to that, if you will. This specific city has about 300 miles of roadway."

Councilmember Dixon inquired why Whitehall hadn't used such services in its 80-year history. Director of Public Service Rowlands responded: "I think this is a tool for us... We simply don't have the capacity

as a staff to go out and collect all of this data. And so having them bring this data to us so now we can produce results, that's our goal."

When asked about reassessment frequency, Mr. Golden recommended a biannual process, explaining that data remains relevant for two years with built-in deterioration curves.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Elmore reported that the committee met last Tuesday, has legislation on the agenda, minutes are on file, and will meet again next week.
- Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Harcar reported the committee met last week, has no drafts or pending legislation, and will meet again next week after 6:30 PM.
- Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson McCann reported the committee met last Tuesday, has one piece of legislation tonight, and will meet again next Tuesday.
- Economic Development – Chairperson Dixon reported the committee met last week, minutes are on file, has nothing on the agenda this evening, and intends to meet next week after 6:30 PM.
- Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services – Chairperson Brown reported that the committee met last week, has a resolution on the agenda, and will meet again next week.
- Public Safety – Chairperson Morrison reported the committee met last week, minutes are on file, has no drafts or pending legislation, and will meet again next Tuesday after 6:30 PM.
- Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Adkins reported the committee met last Tuesday, minutes are on file, and will meet again next Tuesday after 6:30 PM.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Michael T. Bivens

Mayor Bivens began with an invitation to discuss the elimination of property taxes, noting he sits on the Mid-Ohio Regional Policy Roundtable, where this topic arose. He expressed concern about the lack of municipal-level discussion with residents: "One of the things that has not been done on a municipal level is talking to the residents and getting your feedback and your understanding and your thoughts towards it."

The Mayor explained the potential impacts: "With the elimination of property taxes, obviously, as a municipality, the majority of our city services are governed by income taxes... I believe it would significantly impact school budgets throughout the state, as well as some municipal budgets and county budgets."

He announced plans for resident listening sessions on this issue and thanked Auditor Alexander for arranging a special presentation for next week from the Human Services Chamber regarding budget gaps and changes in federal and state funding for human services.

Mayor Bivens detailed upcoming events, including the State of the City on March 2, 2026, at the YMCA, which will feature workforce opportunities, food, information, and the Opportunity Guide distribution. He then shared exciting news: "I got a call from a local nonprofit that has a habit of listening to our council meetings... This nonprofit wanted to help. So the nonprofit called and asked, would you be amenable if our nonprofit donated to the city at your state of the city to provide a minivan to a Whitehall resident?"

The Mayor confirmed that 150 Whitehall residents can apply by submitting information and a 200-word need-based essay, with a public raffle at the State of the City. The nonprofit partner was identified as "That's a Real Situation Incorporated."

Finally, Mayor Bivens announced plans for Whitehall's first Founders Day in 2026 in partnership with the Historical Society, thanking Mr. Long for his dedication to the project.

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus

Attorney Nicodemus provided a comprehensive explanation of the recall process in response to questions from Councilmember Morrison. He outlined the key points:

- Recalls are "not something that pops up often, but it's also not uncommon," noting there were 5-6 recalls in Ohio last year
- For citywide elected officials, petitioners need 15% of the last mayoral election (425 valid signatures)
- Petitions are filed with the Clerk of Council, who determines sufficiency
- The Board of Elections verifies signatures
- If deemed insufficient, petitioners have 10 days to correct deficiencies
- If sufficient, the person sought to be recalled has 5 days to resign
- If they don't resign, it goes to an election within 30-60 days
- The person being recalled can challenge in the Supreme Court

When Councilmember Dixon asked about the reasoning for recall, Attorney Nicodemus clarified: "A tongue-in-cheek answer is that the reason can be the candidate or the elected person wore white shoes after Labor Day. It just has to be a reason."

Regarding photographing petitions, he explained that while petitions become public record once filed, he couldn't definitively say whether circulators must allow photographs.

Councilmember Harcar asked about the cost of a special election. Neither Attorney Nicodemus nor President Potter could recall the exact amount but agreed it was "considerable" and "wasn't insignificant," though not in the hundred-thousand-dollar range.

City Auditor Shaquille Alexander

Auditor Alexander began with staffing updates, noting interviews for a tax clerk position and the expected hiring of Michelle Carberry. He introduced the city's new intern, Daizhon Cox, a senior at The Ohio State University with a 3.65 GPA, studying political science.

The Auditor then delivered an extensive financial presentation, beginning with an overview of the budget development process. He emphasized: "Total resources, and this is all reported to the county auditor as well, have to be greater than total expenditures."

Reviewing recent fiscal years, he detailed:

- 2022: Expenses exceeded revenue by \$570,000, with \$5.7 million carryover to 2023
- 2023: Income tax revenue deficiencies led to spending \$4.3 million more than collected, only \$2.3 million carryover to 2024
- 2024: Through expense controls and revenue growth, revenue exceeded expenses by \$3.4 million, carryover doubled to \$5.7 million
- 2025: Continued strong policies with \$35.8 million income tax revenue projected, ended with \$6.9 million carryover and \$1.5 million reserve

For the 2026 budget, he outlined major allocations:

- Police: \$10.9 million
- Fire: \$5.8 million
- Building-related transfers: \$10.7 million
- Employee-related (pensions): \$6.3 million

Auditor Alexander addressed payroll concerns, showing it remains consistent at 42-44% of total expenses. He contextualized budget increases against inflation (2.7-3.4%) and the Employee Cost Index (4.6-4.7%), explaining: "We have to play catch-up in 2026."

He identified budget increase drivers: 69% to police (\$968,000), 22% to fire (\$314,000), 10% to Department of Neighborhoods (\$153,000), and 8.6% to Parks (\$120,000).

Responding to questions about "creative accounting" allegations, Auditor Alexander stated firmly: "Creative accounting is fraud... My staff works hard to address any allegation that they're doing something wrong. They're not perfect. Any allegation they're doing something wrong, I take as disrespect."

He emphasized the city's financial health: "By any measure of any financial professional, the city's in the best financial shape it's been in some time."

Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands

Director Rowlands thanked Mr. Golden for the PMG presentation and asked for favorable consideration of Ordinance 010-2026 and Resolution 004-2026.

Director of Public Safety Van Gregg

Was not present.

Treasurer Trevel Balser

In his first meeting, Treasurer Balser thanked the council for their vote of confidence and noted he has a meeting scheduled with Auditor Alexander for training on treasurer duties.

President Thomas M. Potter

No officials' reports have been filed in the Council office since the last meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CLAIMS

No communications, petitions, or claims have been filed in the Council office since the last meeting.

POLL PUBLIC

Holly Stein spoke against Ordinance 008-2026 regarding the Director of Neighborhoods position. She argued: "The function already existed at a lower cost model than what is being proposed. Whitehall previously employed a community affairs specialist who performed substantially the same duties." She questioned the need for elevation to the director level with multiple positions, calling it "title inflation rather than operational improvement."

Ms. Stein detailed the true cost burden: "A position is normally 1.4 to 1.6, sometimes 1.7 times when you look at the salary rate... That means that an example of a \$90,000 salary is really realistic to the taxpayers to the tune of \$135,000 to \$150,000 annually."

Diane Peters spoke in favor of the Department of Neighborhoods, sharing personal experience: "I was married when I was 21. My husband... became a union plumber, and he got that job because the federal government said no more federal contract unless you hire some minorities." She detailed struggles with accessing services when her husband faced employment instability: "What if I had to take the bus with

three little kids and had to go back and forth like that with three little kids? People do that. They're getting run around from these agencies sometimes. It would have been so much more helpful to have one person to deal with."

Micole Spicer also advocated for the Department of Neighborhoods, sharing her experience with the Point in Time count for homeless individuals: "I went to the homeless encampments at 5:30 AM... The issues are real. The issues are real." She emphasized urgency: "If I ask for food, please don't hand me the opportunity guide. I can't eat that. I cannot eat the opportunity guide. I can't eat this paper. I need food immediately, not next week, not a month from now, immediately."

Marie Long expressed gratitude for city staff, describing a positive five-hour visit to the municipal building where staff members took time to answer her questions. She stated: "I trust the staff of the Whitehall city to carry out the responsibilities they have been sworn to uphold... I generally believe that we are in great capable hands, and we are very blessed."

John Long read from Leviticus 19:15-18, emphasizing themes of justice, fairness, and loving one's neighbor.

VERIFICATION OF COPIES

Roll call confirmed each member received copies of all legislation. All members voted yes.

THIRD READING

ORDINANCE NO. 004-2026

Councilmember McCann moved to postpone Ordinance 004-2026. Councilmember Dixon seconded the motion.

Director Russell explained the postponement was to build out a potential rental registry and handle related code changes comprehensively rather than piecemeal. The motion to postpone passed 7-0.

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2026 (Title Only)

Amending Ordinance 118-2025, making appropriation for current General Fund (101) expenses for the Department of Neighborhoods and declaration of emergency. Read by title only.

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 010-2026

Councilmember Elmore introduced Ordinance 010-2026 and moved for suspension of all rules. Councilmember Morrison seconded.

Rules suspended 7-0.

Councilmember Elmore moved to adopt. Councilmember Morrison seconded.

Councilmember Dixon thanked Director Rowlands for her presentation and ability to "convince" the council when appropriations are needed. Adopted 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2026

Councilmember Brown introduced Resolution 004-2026 and moved for suspension of rules. Councilmember Harcar seconded.

Rules suspended 7-0.

Councilmember Brown moved to adopt. Councilmember Harcar seconded.

Adopted 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2026

Approving revisions to the investment policy of the City of Whitehall and declaring an emergency.
Read by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 006-2026

Councilmember Brown introduced Resolution 006-2026 and moved for suspension of all rules.
Councilmember Morrison seconded.

Rules suspended 7-0.

Councilmember Brown moved to adopt. Councilmember Morrison seconded.

Adopted 7-0.

POLL PUBLIC

Diane Peters returned to address a recall flyer she found disturbing: "In this flyer, it suggests there's a need to take our community back. Below was a picture of a cross and certain people. The message I got from this is that we at Whitehall are only Christians and some other people." She expressed how the flyer's exclusionary message affected her: "If you are African American, you don't belong here. If you are Somali, you don't belong here. If you are Hispanic or Jewish, you don't belong here. If you are Muslim, you don't belong here."

Ms. Peters shared personal history about seeing civil rights footage as a child: "I remember how I would see those reels of people with water hoses... spraying people like me, and dogs attacking people that look like me. And that image, I cannot explain. It changes you to see that happen. And when I saw that flyer all that just flooded right back in."

She reminded everyone of Whitehall's Black history: "When you say we're taking our community back, the Wards were a free Black family that owned 85 plus acres in Whitehall. They parceled that land and sold it off, maybe to one of your ancestors. So it didn't start with you. It started with the Wards."

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD

Auditor Alexander announced a STEAM education event by Seed Brilliance on March 7th, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Whitehall Shawn Bright Center. The nonprofit brings students and families together for hands-on workshops in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Councilmember Harcar shared information about "Donuts on the Scene" at the Whitehall Senior Center tomorrow at 10:30 AM with fire and police, and the Hope Clinic on March 29th offering low-cost canine vaccinations at \$10 per vaccine.

Director Russell announced girls basketball tournament games, with Whitehall hosting South at 6 PM on Thursday, and noted the strategic plan survey has been extended through the end of February. She also announced a flag raising ceremony for the completed exterior renovations of City Hall on Wednesday at 1 PM.

POLL COUNCIL

Councilmember Brown expressed excitement about the State of the City and the minivan giveaway, thanked those involved in the strategic plan community event, and addressed the Department of Neighborhoods debate: "I heard the argument again, hey, this was taken care of before with a lower cost solution... Does anybody here or out there agree that solutions were adequate for dealing with the issues that Whitehall residents face every day with having a part-time person? I think everyone up here has so far said no."

He pushed back against arguments that residents with "a modicum of wit" could find resources themselves: "I'm relatively adept in being able to find information... I've had to use resources before, and I can tell you how difficult it is to go through the different... hoops that they make you go through."

Regarding Black History Month, he reflected: "It's easy, I think in our country for people to say, well, I treat everybody the same... why do we have to keep talking about this issue of race? And to that I would say, unfortunately, it's not always us who bring race into the issue." He shared personal experience: "Even I getting into this position, was the first thing that was brought up was me only being up here because of my race."

On property taxes, he offered nuanced thoughts: "To abolish property taxes tomorrow I think would be devastating for communities, especially for school systems... Most Whitehall residents, I don't know what the numbers are, but with many of Whitehall residents being renters... they're not going to see the quote unquote relief."

He concluded, addressing divisiveness: "People's lives are their people are struggling. People do not have a sense of community... And so the easiest thing to do is to blame others for why their lives don't look the way they want them to look."

Councilmember Elmore thanked attendees and presenters, expressed support for Mayor Bivens' initiatives, and reflected on Black History Month. She provided historical context: "Carter G. Woodson, known for the father of Black history... coined the concept and established Negro History Week in February 1926."

She emphasized: "The recognition of history or Black contributions to our history, I always have an issue with saying Black history. Because as Americans, this is our history. We happen to be Black. We have made more contributions to forming the fiber and fabric of this nation than any other ethnicity."

Councilmember Elmore listed Black American innovations including Alice Parker's central heating system (1919), Amanda Jones' food preservation process (1873), Jesse Russell's digital cellular technologies, and Valerie Thomas' 3D movie technology. She concluded: "This is not Black history. This is our history. It is American history because we are all Americans."

She also recognized the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson and closed with scripture about prayer and healing.

Councilmember Morrison thanked everyone for enduring the brief meeting and for their contributions.

Councilmember Harcar detailed her advocacy work at the statehouse for domestic violence legislation, including the Break the Silence Act, prohibiting firearms for those convicted of domestic violence, and screening improvements for healthcare providers. She shared sobering statistics: "A report came out from the United Nations... that said the least safe place for a woman was in her home. And that is it is 2026, and that is still what is happening."

She passionately defended the Department of Neighborhoods: "To me, I truly believe that investing in our residents - I don't know what my purpose is up here if we're not going to do that. Hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars in the scheme of our budget... That is like 0.3 percent of our budget."

Addressing personal attacks, she stated: "I know that many of the people that are signing that recall are doing it because they do not like who I help. They do not like that I work with immigrants and refugees. That comes up daily on social media. And I am not willing to bend on the work that I do."

She called for accountability: "I have seen the way that, quite honestly, the mayor has been treated over the last two years. The other counselors, the comments about Devin - I'm sorry, Councilor Brown being up here because he's DEI hired... I think most of us are DEI because women are DEI. Black and brown people are DEI. Veterans are DEI. Elders are DEI."

Councilmember Adkins thanked the administration team for their presentations, congratulated Leslie LaCorte on her Parks and Recreation appointment, and bid everyone good night.

Councilmember McCann thanked the mayor for raising the property tax issue, emphasized the need for council members to discuss it with their wards, and expressed appreciation for the diverse opinions on council. He thanked all the public speakers and those watching online.

Councilmember Dixon thanked attendees and speakers, particularly addressing Ms. Peters' concerns about the recall flyer: "The idea that there's anyone not welcome in this city is appalling and disgusting." He acknowledged the administration's responsiveness regarding the Opportunity Guide and reflected on Jesse Jackson's passing, noting he voted for him in 1988.

On poverty, he stated: "One of the simplest things that can be pulled out of that complexity is trickle-down economics needs to be gotten rid of, and billionaires need to be properly taxed like the rest of us."

Regarding public trust, he emphasized: "As a public official entering the public realm, it is my responsibility to make sure everything is ethically proper... We have to be trustworthy to get the public to trust us, which is earned and should not be simply given."

He welcomed Treasurer Balser and congratulated Ms. LaCorte on her appointment.

ADJOURN

President Potter adjourned the meeting at 9:57 PM.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 3, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

City of Whitehall

City Council Committee Meeting

February 24, 2026 Meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Potter.

Present at the meeting were the following:

Councilor Larry Morrison, Councilor Amy Harcar, Councilor Gerald Dixon, Councilor Elmore, Councilor Devin Brown, Councilor Brian McCann, and Councilor Mike Adkins.

Mayor Michael T. Bivens, City Attorney Brad Nicodemus, and Auditor Shaquille Alexander.

PRESENTATION:

The meeting opened with a presentation by Jared Buerger, Executive Director of the Central Ohio Chapter of A Kid Again. Auditor Alexander introduced his friend, noting he met Mr. Buerger 3-4 years ago and now serves on the A Kid Again board as co-chair of the finance committee. Auditor Alexander explained that when he mentioned the Department of Neighborhoods and related discussions, Mr. Buerger thought it imperative to speak about finding synergies with such a department, A Kid Again, and health and human services organizations in general, examining the top-down model from state to county down to municipalities like Whitehall.

Mr. Buerger thanked President Potter and council members for the opportunity to present. He explained that A Kid Again is a nonprofit organization founded 31 years ago in central Ohio that serves families raising children with life-threatening medical conditions throughout the central Ohio region. The organization serves children with over 400 unique life-threatening medical conditions, providing families opportunities to get breaks from medical settings like hospitals, therapy centers, and doctor's offices. They allow families quality time with loved ones through annual activities called "adventures," taking families to places like the zoo, COSI, Zoombezi Bay, and The Wilds, providing cost-free, carefree opportunities to be in community.

Mr. Buerger detailed the barriers faced by families with children having life-threatening medical conditions, including social isolation, with many families thinking "I'm the only one" experiencing the reality of raising a child with cancer, sickle cell, or other serious conditions. He shared a poignant example of a family where the mother essentially lives at Nationwide Children's Hospital with their daughter while the father stays home with their two boys, with the parents seeing each other only on weekends if lucky. He emphasized the strain this puts on marriages and childhoods, explaining why it's important to create experiences for families to be together as a unit.

Mr. Buerger explained that while A Kid Again serves over 1,100 families throughout Franklin County, they currently serve only 5 families in Whitehall. He noted that throughout Ohio, about 10% of the child population has life-threatening medical conditions that would qualify for A Kid Again programming. He emphasized that once a Department of Neighborhoods is established, his team would work directly with that department to ensure families throughout Whitehall know how to access services from organizations like A Kid Again and other human service organizations.

Mr. Buerger shared research from Nationwide Children's Research Institute showing that 88% of children enrolled in A Kid Again report improved quality of life, 77% of families feel closer as a family unit, and 75% of parents feel less depression and sadness due to their involvement. He emphasized that A Kid Again is just one of many human service nonprofit organizations serving Franklin County and Whitehall that help people navigate social determinants of health, enhance economic stability, quality education access, healthcare, neighborhood building, and social community enrichment. He noted that nonprofit organizations generate about \$2 billion in annual revenue to the Central Ohio region and employ over 22,000 people while serving hundreds of thousands throughout Franklin County.

Mr. Buerger stressed that nonprofits cannot meet the growing demand alone, needing support from government partners, for-profit partners, and the community. He cited a study from the Franklin County Human Service Chamber showing nearly 70% of nonprofit leaders say the state of the sector is either bad or very bad. He noted that 72% said demand for services has increased since January 2025, creating an atmosphere where nonprofit organizations struggle to keep up with need. He explained that 78% of organizations are struggling to meet current need, and 91% of leaders anticipate operational costs will increase by June 2026.

In closing, he outlined how a Department of Neighborhoods could make a difference by making referrals to Whitehall residents for human service organizations - not just through a Google form but with real human beings making authentic connections. He emphasized the value of acting as a bridge between residents and elected officials, noting how this would "next level" constituent care by allowing officials to know exactly what people are saying in the community and have systems to respond to needs. He concluded by highlighting how such a department helps drive neighborhood planning by moving community ideas from inspiration to implementation.

Following the presentation, Councilor Harcar thanked Mr. Buerger, noting her connection through their shared alma mater. She reflected on her experience knowing families that could benefit from A Kid Again's services, citing the example of conjoined twins whose mother lived at the hospital for two years, emphasizing how many families don't know such services exist.

Councilor Elmore thanked Mr. Buerger, sharing that while she couldn't speak from a child's perspective, she could relate from a spouse perspective regarding social isolation, time apart from family, and financial hardships. She inquired about how many cities are involved in the program. Mr. Buerger responded that A Kid Again's Central Ohio chapter serves 55 of Ohio's 88 counties, with additional southwest and northern Ohio chapters covering the remaining 33 counties, meaning every city, municipality, and village throughout Ohio is served.

Councilor Elmore expressed passion about connecting services, sharing her personal experience with the frustration of being directed from office to office. She emphasized the value of having one person to help connect services and walk people through the process, noting how lifting a child's spirit is crucial when "one never knows how long they have." She stressed the importance of collaboration, stating that agencies have worked in silos for far too long, which is "killing communities." She concluded that working together in tandem would benefit not just those in need but the community as a whole.

Councilor Brown expressed gratitude for the work A Kid Again does for families dealing with terminal illness and acknowledged his experience with relatives living with permanent physical disabilities.

Auditor Alexander then made extended remarks, noting that council had heard from someone "on the ground and in the trenches" for over a decade. He emphasized there's a nuanced need for human services in general, pointing out that Whitehall's poverty rate has remained around 15-20% for as long as he's cared about such matters. He questioned why that hasn't changed if the current model was working. Alexander shared his personal experience growing up in Whitehall, being homeless for a period, experiencing food insecurity, and going to school in dirty clothes, stating "it's by the grace of God I'm here before you today." From a financial perspective, he asserted that the numbers show this investment can be afforded, pushing back against those who say it can't be done. He noted that while many organizations do this work, budgets are being cut at federal, state, and county levels, asking "Somebody should step in the gap. Why not us?"

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE LEGISLATION/ISSUES

DRAFT #1 - ORDINANCE NO. 011-2026

President Potter introduced the legislation authorizing the adoption of the May 2026 replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Whitehall. He noted this would go on three readings and called for someone to introduce and second. Councilor Morrison will introduce the ordinance, and Councilor Adkins will second.

DRAFT #2 - RESOLUTION NO. 007-2026

The resolution recognizing Justin Irvin as the 2025 Labor/Service Employee of the Year and awarding him a one-time payment of \$350 was presented. Councilor Dixon will introduce the ordinance, and Councilor McCann will second.

DRAFT #3 - RESOLUTION NO. 008-2026

The resolution recognizing Justin Mooney as the 2025 Firefighter/Paramedic Employee of the Year and awarding him a one-time payment of \$350 was presented. Councilor Harcar will introduce the ordinance, and Councilor Elmore will second.

DRAFT #4 - RESOLUTION NO. 009-2026

The resolution recognizing Jason Kubinski as the 2025 Police Officer Employee of the Year and awarding him a one-time payment of \$350 was presented. Councilor Morrison will introduce the ordinance, and Councilor Elmore will second.

DRAFT #5 - RESOLUTION NO. 010-2026

President Potter expressed excitement about this resolution, recognizing Julie Ogg as the 2025 Administrative/Support Employee of the Year and awarding her a one-time payment of \$350. He noted he would introduce it if he could, but couldn't, so Councilor Morrison will introduce, and Councilor Harcar will second.

THIRD READING - ORDINANCE NO. 008-2026

The ordinance amending Ordinance 118-2025, making appropriations for current general fund expenses for the Department of Neighborhoods, was presented on third reading. President Potter noted it would be introduced by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Dixon.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Councilor Elmore opened the committee at 6:55 PM.

Draft #6 - Ordinance 012-2026:

First reading, to be adopted March 3rd, authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$203,342.37 from unappropriated monies in the Wimpite Fund 279 to the Hamilton/Broad TIF 90-339 expense account. Councilor Elmore will introduce, and Councilor Brown will second.

Auditor Alexander explained this was for an agreement put in place in 2018 to put money in the expense account to pay it, noting the money is there and the fund is flush. He had spoken with Jackie Russell about it being normal course of business that wasn't included in appropriations at the beginning of the year.

Draft #7 - Ordinance 013-2026:

First reading, to be adopted March 3rd, authorizing a fund transfer of \$68,650.42 from unappropriated monies in the general fund to the debt service fund for renovations of city hall, police and fire department buildings, and service department garage including capital lease and energy upgrades. Councilor Elmore will introduce, and Councilor Brown will second.

Auditor Alexander explained that any debt or capital leases must be paid from the debt service fund as prescribed by the Auditor of State and Ohio Revised Code. He noted that debt payments typically come from the general fund, requiring transfer to the debt service fund. This relates to capital lease renovations at city hall, police, and fire, and the money is available.

Draft #8 - Ordinance 014-2026:

First reading, to be adopted March 3rd, approving a supplemental appropriation of \$4,090.00 from unappropriated monies in the police department grant fund to the Ohio Traffic Safety Office Grant expense account. Police were awarded a grant to pay costs for driver's education classes for high school students. Councilor Elmore will introduce, and Councilor Morrison will second.

Auditor Alexander noted this was money received unexpectedly that requires council approval to use.

Councilor Dixon asked about the history of driver's education at Whitehall Yearling, noting they had it when he attended school. Councilor Atkins, who served on the school board, explained they tried for many years to bring it back but faced funding issues and couldn't find anyone to bring it back to schools. He noted the tragic accident involving Tom's wife helped get momentum to restore the program. Councilor Harcar confirmed funding was the primary issue, noting unfortunately many schools no longer offer driver's education. President Potter shared that in his day they had classroom instruction and two cars for actual driving experience on the freeway. Multiple council members shared they had to go through AAA for driver training when they were in high school.

Draft #9 - Ordinance 015-2026:

First reading, to be adopted March 3rd, authorizing a fund transfer of \$30,306.00 from the evidence set aside fund to the law enforcement trust fund and making a supplemental appropriation for the same amount. Councilor Elmore will introduce, and Councilor Morrison will second.

Auditor Alexander explained that when police conduct narcotics operations and seize money, it goes into a set aside fund. Once the court releases the money, it must be moved to the trust fund for distribution. President Potter confirmed the money is at the police department's discretion to spend as they will.

Draft #10 - Ordinance 016-2026:

First reading, to be adopted March 3rd, approving a fund transfer of \$57,920.89 from unappropriated monies in the general fund to the debt service fund for the Franklin County Infrastructure Bank loan for the Woodcliff redevelopment project. Councilor Elmore will introduce, and Councilor McCann will second.

Auditor Alexander explained this was similar to earlier transfers where debt cannot be paid from the general fund.

Auditor Alexander then addressed previous conversations about his presentation during the last council meeting, responding to criticism that he didn't give the total picture of the city's finances. He clarified he was presenting only general fund revenue and expenses as that was the scope. He announced that Baker Tilly, the city's bond advisors, would present next Tuesday about debt service and credit rating. He noted the city's credit rating was A+ when last rated in 2023 by S&P Global, with Baker Tilly projecting an increase to AA. He credited the budget stabilization fund, budgetary processes, council involvement, and cost controls in 2024 for helping increase general fund reserves year over year.

Resolution 005-2026:

Second reading, up for adoption on March 3rd, approving revisions to the investment policy of the City of Whitehall. Councilor Elmore will introduce, and Councilor McCann will second.

Councilor Elmore closed the committee at 7:06 PM.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY

Councilor Harcar opened the committee at 7:07 PM. She noted there were no drafts or pending legislation and asked if anyone had anything for the committee. Seeing nothing, she closed at 7:07 PM.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Councilor McCann opened the committee at 7:07 PM, noting no drafts or pending legislation. Asking for any discussion or questions and seeing none, he closed at 7:07 PM.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Dixon opened the committee at 7:07 PM with no drafts or pending legislation. Asking if anyone had anything and seeing nothing, he closed at 7:08 PM.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES

Councilor Brown opened the committee at 7:08 PM without any drafts or pending legislation. Asking if anyone had anything and seeing nothing, he closed at 7:08 PM.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilor Morrison opened the committee at 7:08 PM with no drafts or pending legislation. Asking if anyone had anything and seeing nothing, he closed at 7:08 PM.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilor Adkins opened Parks and Recreation at 7:08 PM with no drafts or pending legislation. Asking if anybody had anything and receiving no response, he closed at 7:08 PM.

DISCUSSION: Council Rules of Procedure for the 2026-2027 Term

President Potter opened the discussion on council rules of procedure for the 2026-2027 term. He explained he wanted to go through items individually, but didn't want to go down rabbit holes since minds wouldn't be changed during the discussion. He outlined that next week at the council meeting, members would make individual motions on items they wanted voted on, requiring a simple majority of 4 votes to pass. He explained that Ms. Ogg would tie each bullet point back to the specific article and section in the existing rules so motions could cite exact locations.

Councilor Dixon confirmed that if something isn't approved, it simply reverts back to the existing rules. He also asked about the rules of procedure sheets, noting they had received one two weeks ago and now a new version. Ms. Ogg explained that City Attorney Nicodemus had sent Robert's Rules additions, and she had also added items from Councilor Harcar - specifically on page 4 regarding executive sessions and page 6 regarding conduct of council business.

The council then proceeded through the proposed changes:

Absence of President and President Pro Tem: The discussion covered the order of succession when both are absent. Councilor Dixon suggested changing "serve" to "be determined" for the acting presiding officer. City Attorney Nicodemus noted that the chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee should be struck since the presiding officer must be an elected council person, not the Parks Commission chair.

Council Agenda Delivery: The proposal to make it the president's responsibility was discussed. President Potter noted he doesn't type or prepare agendas, suggesting it should be the clerk's responsibility. The council agreed to change "president of council" to "clerk of council" and add that agendas would be delivered "via email" to council members.

Emergency Legislation: President Potter suggested spelling out that a two-thirds affirmative vote means "5 votes" in parentheses for clarity, even though it's defined elsewhere in the rules.

Reconsideration: City Attorney Nicodemus explained that allowing reconsideration at the next meeting could be problematic since legislation becomes law once the mayor signs it or after 10 days without signature. The council agreed to strike the addition, allowing reconsideration at the next meeting, keeping only reconsideration during the same meeting.

Rules of Discussion: Extensive discussion occurred about speaker slips and the information required. President Potter objected to requiring detailed information like the organization represented and specific topics, suggesting it was overly intrusive. The council discussed whether to require addresses or just city names, with concerns raised about safety and verification. Councilor Dixon advocated for at least knowing what city speakers are from to gauge constituent input.

Conduct and Decorum: The council discussed language prohibiting obscenity and partisan political propaganda. Councilor Harcar raised concerns about who decides what constitutes partisan political propaganda and whether it might limit law enforcement presentations. President Potter clarified that this only applies to poll public, not special presentations.

Executive Session: Councilor Harcar proposed language about executive sessions not being recorded and differentiating between regular executive sessions and interviews where note-taking might be necessary. City Attorney Nicodemus explained that notes taken in executive session could become public records. The discussion covered the appropriate use of phones and devices during interviews for candidates.

Conduct of Council Business: The council discussed adding the economic development director to the list of officials. Councilor Dixon questioned why the order of mayor, city attorney, and auditor had been switched from the original rules, expressing concern about the administration changing the council's seating arrangements without consent. President Potter characterized this as a "deck chair off the Titanic" issue.

Agenda Deadlines: Ms. Ogg requested moving the deadline for agenda items from noon Friday to 5 PM Thursday, giving her time to prepare the agenda for noon Friday distribution. The council agreed to this change. Councilor Harcar proposed requiring sponsors of legislation to provide supporting materials with their submissions by the same deadline. The council agreed to change "encouraged" to "required" and set the same 5 PM Thursday deadline.

Council Questions to Administration: The council discussed requiring council questions to administration be submitted in advance by noon on Monday to ensure optimal preparation. This would give the administration the option to either answer questions submitted late or indicate they weren't prepared due to late submission.

Debate Rules: Extensive and sometimes heated discussion occurred about formal debate rules, including whether council members get one or two 5-minute opportunities to speak on motions. The discussion became contentious when council members disagreed about informal versus formal debate procedures, leading to a tense exchange between Councilor Dixon, Councilor Harcar, and others about respect and interruptions during discussions. President Potter ultimately shut down the deteriorating discussion.

The council settled on allowing two 5-minute opportunities for each member to speak on any motion, after which a vote would be called. City Attorney Nicodemus explained this would supersede Robert's Rules since council rules take precedence.

Poll Council Time Limits: President Potter proposed time limits for council members during poll council, similar to the 3-minute limits for the public, suggesting council leads by example. He characterized recent poll council statements as "Academy Award acceptance speeches" needing "music and the hook." Councilor Dixon disagreed, arguing that as elected representatives, council

members have the right to speak on matters at council meetings without strict time limits. After discussion, the consensus leaned toward allowing 5-6 minutes maximum.

Public Participation: The council agreed to allow the public two 3-minute opportunities to speak at the poll public on any subject they choose. They also discussed warnings and removal procedures for disruptive behavior, with City Attorney Nicodemus explaining the legal framework around maintaining order while respecting First Amendment rights. The council agreed on giving warnings before removal, with discretion for the presiding officer in extreme cases.

Public Hearings: The council discussed time limits for public hearing presentations. They decided not to limit applicants presenting to planning commission items, but agreed on 5-minute limits for public comments during hearings.

Cell Phone Usage: Councilor Dixon proposed prohibiting cell phones during meetings, citing their use for communication between council members and receiving questions from constituents during meetings. Other council members argued phones serve as resources for notes, checking legislation references, and community board announcements. President Potter supported allowing phones as tools while expecting appropriate use.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about council members submitting their proposed motions to Ms. Ogg and City Attorney Nicodemus before the next meeting to ensure proper wording and placement in the rules.

President Potter adjourned the meeting at 9:24 PM.

Submitted by:

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 3, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2026

AMENDING ORDINANCE 118-2025, MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR CURRENT GENERAL FUND (101) EXPENSES, -FOR THE DEPARTMENT ON NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Ordinance 118-2025, the City's operating budget, was adopted December 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, amendments to certain appropriations ~~has~~have been requested; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: Ordinance 118-2025, providing for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Whitehall during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, shall be amended as follows:

MAYOR

101.204.51200	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBORHOODS	\$	92,000.00 <u>0.00</u>
101.204.51300	ASS'T TO DIRECTOR OF NEIGHB	\$	61,000.00 <u>0.00</u>
101.204.58010	TRAINING CERTIFICATION	\$	- 7,500.00 <u>0.00</u>
101.204.58314	NEIGHBORHOODS TECH	\$	-5,000.00 <u>0.00</u>
		\$	165,500.00 <u>0.00</u>

SECTION 2: That any sums which shall be expended from the above appropriation and which are a proper charge against any other department, or against any person or firm, or corporation, shall, if repaid within the period covered by such appropriation, be credited to the General Fund and require re-appropriation action by Council.

SECTION 3: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for the amounts appropriated and for the purposes stated in this Ordinance, upon receiving the proper certificates and vouchers therefore, approved by the officer authorized by law to approve the same or authorized by an ordinance or Resolution of Council to make the expenditures. The City Auditor and Treasurer are hereby specifically prohibited from drawing warrants and making payments in excess of amounts appropriated by Council.

SECTION 4: That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, peace, safety and welfare and for the further reason this is amendment to the current operating budget; WHEREFORE, This Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2026

APPROVING REVISIONS TO THE INVESTMENT POLICY OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Offices of City Auditor and City Treasurer are responsible for the management of daily receipts, disbursements, and investments of cash and related accounting operations and the City of Whitehall is authorized to invest interim monies pursuant to Ohio Revised Code ("ORC") Chapter 135, and pursuant to the Charter of the City of Whitehall, including Sections 42 and 46; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Charter, the City Auditor serves as the City's Chief Fiscal and Accounting Officer and is responsible for fiscal classification, fund integrity, and compliance with applicable laws, debt covenants, and fiscal policies adopted by City Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Charter, the City Treasurer serves as custodian of public funds and is responsible for receiving, holding, depositing, and disbursing City money in accordance with law and lawful direction of Council and the City Auditor; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the City Auditor and City Treasurer to invest all funds under their control in a manner that provides safety of principal, liquidity, and a reasonable rate of return while meeting the daily cash flow requirements of the City in conformance with the Whitehall City Charter, Codified Ordinances of the City of Whitehall, and the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, the City's Investment Policy is intended to ensure the safety of principal, adequate liquidity to meet operating and debt service requirements, and a reasonable rate of return using only those instruments authorized by law, while maintaining appropriate internal controls and oversight; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor, as Chief Fiscal and Accounting Officer of the City, has recently drafted revisions to the Investment Policy of the City of Whitehall to update the Policy for current compliance and operational needs and the Ohio Revised Code mandates that investment policies and any revisions or modifications to the policy must be approved by Council and filed with the Auditor of State; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That City Council hereby adopts the revisions to the Investment Policy, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor and City Treasurer shall continue to review the Investment Policy on an annual basis and any modifications made thereto shall be approved by City Council and, upon its adoption, filed in the office of the Auditor of State.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and for the further reason that the City would like to add this to our allowable investments; WHEREFORE, this Resolution shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage by the Council of the City of Whitehall and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2026

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026. _____
Mayor

Requested by: Shaquille Alexander, City Auditor
Prepared by: Shaquille Alexander, City Auditor 2/2/2026
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney BSN 2/6/2026

City of Whitehall, Ohio

Investment Policy

Revised February 2026

Purpose and Authority

This Investment Policy ("Policy") is adopted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 135 and §§ 42 and 46 of the City of Whitehall Charter, and as such, the City Auditor ("Auditor") is the City's Chief Fiscal and Accounting Officer and retains final authority over fiscal classification, fund integrity, and compliance with Ohio Revised Code, debt covenants and policies, and any formally fiscal policies adopted by City Council ("Council") .

The City Treasurer ("Treasurer") serves as custodian of public funds and executes deposits and investment transactions consistent with this Policy and lawful direction of Council and the Auditor. The Treasurer handles receiving, holding, and disbursing money as provided by law, and making deposits into authorized depositories.

Roles and Responsibilities

City Auditor:

- Serves as Chief Fiscal Officer under §§ 41 and 42 of the Charter of the City of Whitehall and ORC § 733.10.
- Keeps the books of the City and exhibits accurate statements of all monies received, expended, of all property owned by the City and the income derived therefrom, and of all taxes and assessments under ORC § 733.11.
- Determines fund classification, accounting determination, and fiscal legality.
- Authorizes investment strategy, fund transfers, and consolidation of cash balances.

City Treasurer:

- Acts as custodian of public funds and shall keep an accurate account of all monies received and disbursed under § 46 of the Charter of the City of Whitehall and §§ 733.43 and 733.44 of the ORC.
- Shall settle and account with Council quarterly, and at any other time required by resolution or ordinance. Annually, at the first regular meeting of Council, the Treasurer shall report the conditions of the City's finances, amounts received and disbursed during the preceding year, as prescribed by ORC § 733.45.
- Executes deposits, investments, and safekeeping arrangements in authorized depositories.
- Maintains investment records and provides reporting to the Auditor, Mayor, and Council.

Scope

This Policy applies to all interim monies of the City, including state and federal funds held by it. The Auditor and Treasurer shall routinely monitor the City's investment portfolio, the available markets, and relative value of competing investments and adjust the portfolio accordingly.

- Except for cash in certain restricted and special funds, the City may consolidate cash balances from all accounting funds
- Under the laws of the State of Ohio, longer-term funds of investment of employees' retirement funds are directly assigned to various state pension programs. The investments for the various state pension plans rest with the plan administrators and are not within the scope of this Policy.
- The employees of the City may elect to participate in an approved employee deferred compensation program that has been created in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) § 457. The investments for the 457 plan rests with the plan administrators and are not within the scope of this Policy.

Funds are accounted for in the City's audited annual financial report and include:

- General Fund
- Special Revenue Fund(s)
- Debt Service Fund
- Capital Project Fund(s)
- Accrued Benefit Reserve Fund
- Expendable Trust Fund(s)

General Objectives

The primary objective in the investment of City funds under control of the City Auditor and Treasurer is to ensure the safety of principal, while managing liquidity requirements, debt service and other financial obligations of the City, providing the highest investment return using authorized investment instruments, and promoting economic development in the City. The safety and retention of principal; is the foremost objective of the City's investment program and investments shall be made in a manner that ensure the preservation of capital. Investments shall be limited to those defined as compliant under the ORC and any formally adopted Council resolutions and ordinances.

Credit Risk

The City will manage credit risk by:

- Limiting investments to the types of securities within the ORC § 135.
- Pre-qualifying the financial institution, broker/dealers, intermediaries and advisers with which the City will do business.

- Diversifying the investment portfolio so that potential losses on individual securities can be minimized.

Interest Rate Risk

The City will minimize the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in general interest rates by:

- Structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations. The City seeks to hold securities to maturity, rather than sell on the open market to avoid losses.
- Investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities and cash equivalents as defined by ORC § 135 to ensure adequate liquidity for near-term expenditures.

Liquidity

The investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to enable the City to meet all operating requirements that might be reasonably anticipated. This is accomplished by structuring the portfolio so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands. Furthermore, because all possible cash demands may not be anticipated, the portfolio should consist largely of securities with active secondary or resale markets.

Return on Investment

The Auditor shall seek to obtain the highest available return using authorized investments as defined by ORC § 135. However, return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above. The core of investments is limited to relatively low-risk securities in anticipation of earning a fair return relative to the risk being assumed. Securities shall not be sold prior to maturity with the following exceptions:

- Securities issued by creditors with declining credit may be sold prior to maturity to minimize loss of principal.
- If a security swap (the sale of an inventory position followed by a re-deployment of sale proceeds) could improve the quality, yield, or targeted duration in the portfolio.
- Liquidity needs of the portfolio require the security to be sold.

Arbitrage and Bond Proceeds

Investment of bond proceeds shall comply with IRC § 148. Interest earnings on bond proceeds are subject to federal arbitrage rebate requirements. Reallocation of funds to mitigate future arbitrage exposure is a compliance-driven fiscal decision within the authority of the Auditor. The Auditor may engage outside consultants to advise on matters related to complying with IRC § 148.

Authorized Financial Institutions and Dealers

The Auditor and Treasurer may engage the services of an independent investment advisor registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (RIA). The RIA shall be permitted to affect the purchase or sale of eligible investments within ORC 135 and these shall be executed on a delivery-versus-payment basis with unrelated broker/dealers registered with the Financial Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Certificates of Deposit (CD) shall be transacted through eligible financial institutions directly or via a FINRA broker/dealer. All CDs shall comply with FDIC and collateral requirement provisions under ORC 135. A list of authorized institutions and dealers shall be maintained with the Auditor and Treasurer. Additions and deletions to this list shall be made when deemed in the best interest by the Auditor and Treasurer.

Standards of Care – Prudence

To accomplish the objective of the Auditor and Treasurer, all authorized persons engaged in the investment process will perform their duties responsibly in accordance with the following standard:

Investments shall be made with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, specifically including, but not limited to, the general economic conditions and the anticipated needs of the City. The standard of prudence to be used by the Auditor and Treasurer shall be the “prudent person” standard and shall be applied in the context of managing the overall portfolio. The Auditor and Treasurer shall:

- Act in accordance with written procedures and this Policy,
- Exercise due diligence
- Prepare all reports in a timely fashion
- Exercise appropriate action to control adverse developments

Standards of Care – Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Persons involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Employees and investment consultants shall disclose to the City any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business within the City and any large personal financial or investment positions that could be related to, or affected by, the performance of the City’s portfolio. All investment advisors, broker/dealers, and others engaged by the City shall maintain compliance procedures designed to comply with personal securities transaction priority of interest rule.

The above supplement the applicable provisions of the Ohio ethics law.

Standards of Care – Delegation of Authority

The authority to manage the investment program is granted by §§ 42 and 46 of the Charter of the City of Whitehall and the Ohio Revised Code § 135. The Auditor and Treasurer are the officers for the City and are charged with the responsibility for the operation of the investment program. They shall act in accordance with established written procedures and internal controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with this Policy.

Standards of Care – Investment Procedures

Procedures should be implemented to address such issues as: safekeeping, delivery versus payment, investment accounting, repurchase agreements, wire transfer agreements, and collateral/depository agreements. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this Policy and the procedures by the Auditor and Treasurer. The Auditor and Treasurer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials.

Standards of Care – Internal Controls

The City Auditor and Treasurer shall develop and maintain procedures for the operation of the City's investment program in accordance with this Policy. These procedures shall be designed to prevent loss of the City's funds due to fraud, error, misrepresentation, unanticipated market changes or imprudent actions.

Standards of Care – Safekeeping and Custody

The Auditor or Treasurer will maintain a list of financial institutions and approved securities broker/dealers selected on the basis of creditworthiness, who are authorized to provide investment services and who qualify under ORC § 135.14(M)(1). These may include "primary" dealers or regional dealers that qualify under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c3-1 and are registered with the Ohio Department of commerce to do business in the State.

All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified suppliers of investment transactions to must provide, unless otherwise available in a public forum (i.e. on-line) to the Auditor: (1) audited annual financial statements, (2) proof of good standing with the Comptroller of Currency or with State banking regulators or National Association of Securities Dealers certification, (3) proof of Ohio registration and (4) biographical and regulatory information on the persons who are the primary contact with the City. All financial institutions, broker/dealers and other entities who desire to conduct investment business (advice, recommendations or transactions) with the City must sign this Policy, acknowledging that they have read it, understand it and agree to abide by its contents.

Standards of Care – Authorized Investments

The City is authorized by statute to invest in the following types of securities:

- United States Treasury Bills, Notes, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.
- Bonds, notes, debentures, or other obligations, or securities issued by any Federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, National Mortgage Association and other Agencies defined in § 135.
- Interim deposits in duly authorized depositories of the City, provided those deposits are properly insured or collateralized as required by law.
- FDIC insured Certificates of Deposit (CDs) issued by Ohio domiciled institutions as well as those issued by multi-state banks reasonably expected to be subject to inspection by the Ohio Superintendent of Financial Institutions as described in §§ 2-6 of the Ohio Auditor of State's 2016 Ohio Compliance Supplement.
- Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio and other political subdivisions of the State of Ohio as permitted in § 135, so long as all of the following apply:
 - The bonds or other obligations are payable from the general revenues of the political subdivision and backed by the full faith and credit of the political subdivision.
 - The bonds or other obligations are rated at the time of purchase in the three highest classifications established by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service and purchased through a registered securities broker or dealer.
 - The aggregate value of the bonds or other obligations does not exceed twenty per cent of interim moneys available for investment at the time of purchase.
 - The City is not the sole purchaser of the bonds or other obligations at original issuance.
- No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of securities described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Section and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided all such investments under this paragraph shall be made with a bank or savings and loan association eligible to be a depository for public funds of Ohio subdivisions and provided further than any such fund meets the requirements of § 135, including that such fund not include an investment in a "derivative".
- Ohio Subdivisions' Fund (STAROhio).
- Overnight or term (not exceeding 30 days) repurchase agreements meeting the requirements of § 135.03 of the Revised Code.
- Commercial paper notes issued by an entity that is defined in division (D) of § 1705.01 of the Revised Code and that has assets exceeding five hundred million dollars, to which notes all of the following apply:

- The notes are rated at the time of purchase in the highest classification established by at least two nationally recognized standard rating services.
- The aggregate value of the notes does not exceed ten per cent of the aggregate value of the outstanding commercial paper of the issuing corporation.
- The notes mature no later than two hundred seventy days after purchase.
- The investment in commercial paper notes of a single issuer shall not exceed in the aggregate five per cent of interim monies available for investment at the time of purchase.
- Bankers' acceptances of banks that are insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation and that mature not later than one hundred eighty days after purchase.

No investment shall be made pursuant to § 135.14(B)(7) of the ORC unless the Treasurer or governing board has completed additional training for making the investments authorized by § 135.14(B)(7) of the ORC. The type and amount of additional training shall be approved by the treasurer of state and may be conducted by or provided under the supervision of the Treasurer of State.

Standards of Care – Internal Controls

The Auditor is responsible for establishing, monitoring, and reporting on an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the city are protected from loss, theft or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met.

The Auditor shall supply a copy of the Policy of the City to the independent public accountants/external auditors of the City as part of their review of internal control concerning compliance with policies and procedures related to this Policy.

Standards of Care – Collateralization

To protect City public deposits, each institution designated as a public depository shall provide security for the repayment of all uninsured public deposits in accordance with ORC 135.18 and, if applicable, the Ohio Pooled Collateral Program under ORC 135.182. If the institution secures deposits using the specific pledge method under ORC 135.18, eligible securities shall be pledged in an aggregate market value of at least 105% of the City's uninsured public deposits.

If the institution participates in the Ohio pooled collateral program under ORC 135.182, the institution shall pledge a pool of collateral at a level required under ORC 135.182(B)(1) (generally 102% of uninsured public deposits, or another amount established by rules of the Treasurer of State).

The City may establish a public unit negotiated collateral requirement with a financial institution that is higher than any reduced collateral floor established in the pooled collateral program.

Collateral may be held by a third party, or in a separate trust account, or in a pool of securities as described in the ORC § 135.181.

Standards of Care – Diversification

The City will diversify its investments by security type, maturity term, and institution.

Standards of Care – Maximum Maturities

To the extent possible, the City will attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. No investment shall be made unless the Auditor and Treasurer, at the time of making the investment, reasonably expect that it can be held to maturity. Unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the City, the City will not directly invest in securities listed in paragraphs 1 through 5 above under Authorized Investments maturing more than five (5) years from the date of settlement if such securities bear interest at a fixed rate per ORC § 135.14(D). Municipal bonds shall be exempt from this rule, which are permitted to have a maturity of up to (10) years per ORC § 135.14(B)(4)(e).

An eligible investment bearing interest at a variable rate, in order not to be deemed a “derivative” as defined in § 135 of the Ohio Revised Code, must:

- Have such variable interest rate payment based upon a single interest payment of single index comprised of other investment as described in (1) or (2) above under Authorized Investments, and
- Have a maximum maturity no greater than two (2) years.

Standards of Care – Safekeeping and Custody

All securities transactions, including securities acquired subject to repurchase agreements, entered into by the City will be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment basis. Purchased securities will be held on behalf of the City by a custodian, that is a Federal Reserve Bank or other “qualified trustee” within the meaning of § 135.18(I) of the ORC, and the safekeeping of those securities for the benefit of the City shall be evidenced by safekeeping receipts. Purchased securities may be released by the City only upon verification that their principal and interest, or proceeds of their sale, have been credited to the City’s account.

Standards of Care – Prohibited Investment Practices

In addition to any other prohibitions in the Ohio Revised Code, the city will not take any of the following actions:

- Contract to sell securities that have not yet been acquired on the speculation that prices will decline.
- Make any investment in “derivatives” as defined in § 135.14(c) of the ORC.
- Enter into reverse repurchase agreements.

- Leverage current investments as collateral to purchase other assets.
- Invest in stripped principal or interest obligations of otherwise eligible obligations.

Invest in a fund established by another public body for the purpose of investing public money of other subdivisions except either:

- STAROhio
- A fund created solely for the purchase of acquiring, constructing, owning, leasing or operating municipal utilities as authorized under Ohio Revised Code § 715.02 or § 4 of Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution.

Standards of Care – Binding Arbitration

The Auditor may enter into a written investment or deposit agreement that includes a provision under which the parties agree to submit to nonbinding arbitration (but NOT binding arbitration) to settle any controversy that may arise out of that agreement so long as such provision meets the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and is specifically approved by the Council.

Records and Reporting

The City Treasurer shall maintain a current inventory of all investments including:

- Description of each security
- Cost
- Par value
- Dates (beginning, settlement, and maturity)
- Rates
- Seller

The Treasurer shall also prepare and distribute monthly to the Auditor, Mayor, and Council a list of all investments and a report on investment activity and returns.

Human Rights

It is the policy of the Auditor and Treasurer that discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, disability, marital status, parental status, source of income or military discharge status will not be tolerated.

Education

The Auditor and Treasurer may and are authorized to participate in any beginning and/or continuing education training programs sponsored by the State Treasurer or the State Auditor in which the City Treasurer and/or City Auditor is required to participate pursuant to §§ 117.44 and 135.22 of the Ohio Revised code. Through participation in those programs, the City Treasurer

and City Auditor will develop and maintain an enhanced background and working knowledge in investment, cash management, and ethics.

Investment Policy Adoption and Revision

This Policy shall be adopted by the City Council of Whitehall, Ohio and, upon adoption, filed in the office of the Auditor of State. The policy should be reviewed annually by the Auditor and Treasurer and any modifications made to it must be approved by the Council and, upon adoption, filed in the office of the Auditor of State. This Policy shall also be acknowledged and signed by any investment advisor engaged in providing services to the City.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

_____, hereby acknowledges that (1) he/she has received a copy of the Investment Policy of Whitehall, Ohio to which this Acknowledgment is attached and (2) appropriate officers and employees have read it and understand it, and agrees that, if it enters into investment transactions with the City of Whitehall, Ohio, they will abide by this Investment Policy and the relevant provisions of the Ohio Revised code in its dealings with the City of Whitehall. It also acknowledges that it understands that binding arbitration provisions are not permitted and that any nonbinding arbitration provisions governing its relationship with the City must be expressly approved by the Council. The officer signing this Acknowledgement is authorized to do so on its behalf.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

ORDINANCE NO. 011-2026

AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE MAY 2026 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is desirable and necessary that the City of Whitehall maintain an organized and published code of ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the codified ordinances for the City of Whitehall should be amended regularly to conform with current state law as required by the Ohio Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the council has passed various ordinances of a general and permanent nature and should be included in the codified ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Walter H. Drane Company of Cleveland, Ohio, has entered into a contract with the City of Whitehall to prepare and publish such revisions twice a year, and the May 2026 replacements are now before the council; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the ordinances of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, of a general and permanent nature, as revised, recodified, rearranged, and consolidated into component codes, titles, chapters, and sections within the May 2026 replacement pages to the codified ordinances are hereby approved and adopted.

SECTION 2. That the President of Council and Clerk of Council shall certify that the permanent and general ordinances of the City, as codified in the current replacement pages, are correctly set forth therein.

SECTION 3. That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City to pay the Walter H. Drane Company for said services and products from previously appropriated monies in the City Council Office Supplies Account (101-100-52000).

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, peace, safety and welfare; and for the further reasons that it is necessary that the City of Whitehall maintain an organized and published code of its ordinances and that it conforms with current state law provisions; WHEREFORE, this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested and Prepared by: Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney BSN 2/23/26

ORDINANCE NO. 012-2026

AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED AND THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY TWO AND THIRTY SEVEN CENTS (\$203,342.37) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WIMPITE FUND 279 TO THE HAMILTON/BROAD TIF 90-339 EXPENSE ACCOUNT 279.000.50009 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Ordinance 036-2018 authorized the Mayor to enter into a Tax Increment Financing and Infrastructure Agreement dated 06/12/2019 and;

WHEREAS, beginning in Year 2020 until Section 2.2 of Article II of the development agreement is fulfilled, the City shall reimburse a portion of the TIF proceeds to the developer for the reimbursement of infrastructure construction; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Whitehall City Council authorizes an appropriation to the Hamilton/Broad TIF 90-339 TIF Expense Account 279.000.50009 in the sum of \$203,342.37 from unappropriated monies in the WIMPITE Fund 279.

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the purpose stated.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, peace, safety, and welfare, and for the further reason that legal agreements have been reached and now payment is required; WHEREFORE, this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 013 -2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND 42/100 DOLLARS (\$68,650.42) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND (401).

WHEREAS, the City had made renovations to City Hall, the Police and Fire Department buildings, and the Service Department garage, which included the Capital Lease for energy upgrades; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 119-2025 appropriated monies for the purpose of repayment of this loan; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor of State requires bond retirement payments and other long-term debt to be paid from the Debt Service Fund; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That there be and is hereby transferred the sum of sixty-eight thousand six hundred ninety and 42/100 dollars (\$68,650.42) from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Debt Service Fund (401)

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the stated purpose.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 014-2026

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND NINETY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,090.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND (212) TO THE 212.000.50010 OHIO TRAFFIC SAFETY OFFICE GRANT (OTSO) EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall Division of Police was awarded a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office Grant (OTSO) to pay the costs associated with driver's education classes for high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Whitehall City School District has agreed to collaborate with the Division of Police to provide the much-needed service to Whitehall Yearling High School students; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, approves and makes a supplemental appropriation in the amount of four thousand ninety and 00/100 dollars (\$4,090.00) from unappropriated monies in the Police Department Grant Fund (212) to the Ohio Traffic Safety Office Grant (OTSO) expense account (212.000.50010).

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the purpose stated.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested and prepared by: Chris Peterson, Deputy Auditor
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney bsn 02/24/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 015 -2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,306.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE EVIDENCE SETASIDE FUND (245) TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (241) AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ON THE AMOUNT OF THRITY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,306.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (241) TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (241.000.50000).

WHEREAS, the Whitehall Division of Police seized monies as a result of a narcotics investigation and recorded the said monies in the Evidence Setaside Fund (245) and;

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Common Pleas Court has released the monies, by court order, to the Whitehall Division of Police and disperse the monies as outlined in Whitehall City Ordinance 52-87; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That this Council approves a fund transfer in the amount thirty thousand three hundred six and 00/100 dollars (\$30,306.00) from unappropriated monies in the Evidence Setaside Fund (245) to the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (241) and a supplemental appropriation in the amount of thirty thousand three hundred six and 00/100 dollars (\$30,306.00) from unappropriated funds in the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (241) to the Law Enforcement Trust Fund Expense Account (241.000.50000).

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the stated purpose.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance is shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 016 -2026

APPROVING AND MAKING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY AND 89/100 DOLLARS (\$57,920.89) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND (401).

WHEREAS, the City received a loan from the Franklin County Infrastructure Bank for the Woodcliff Redevelopment Project; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 119-2025 appropriated monies for the purpose of repayment of this loan; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor of State requires bond retirement payments and other long-term debt to be paid from the Debt Service Fund; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the Council of the City of Whitehall approves and makes fund transfer in the amount of fifty seven thousand nine hundred twenty and 89/100 dollars (\$57,920.89) from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Debt Service Fund (401).

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the stated purpose.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested and prepared by: Chris Peterson, Deputy Auditor
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney bsn 02/24/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 017-2026

MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/00 DOLLARS (\$25,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE RECREATION TRUST FUND (860) TO THE RECREATION TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (860.000.50000) AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Capital One/Discover Financial Services has provided sponsorship funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 to Whitehall Parks and Recreation to enhance community outreach and engagement; and

WHEREAS, those sponsorship dollars are intended to support programs and events in 2026; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, approves and makes a supplemental appropriation in the amount of twenty-five thousand and 00/00 dollars (\$25,000.00) from unappropriated monies in the Recreation Trust Fund (860) to the Recreation Trust Fund Expense Account (860.000.50000).

SECTION 2: The Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the purpose stated in this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, peace, safety, and welfare and for the further reason that it is necessary to have the monies available to pay current program expenses; WHEREFORE, This Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested and Prepared by: Shannon Brady, Parks and Recreation Director
Approved as to financial form: Shaquille Alexander, City Auditor
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney BSN 2/25/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 018 -2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 13/100 DOLLARS (\$151,582.13) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE INSPECTION DEPOSIT TRUST FUND (804) AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ON THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 13/100 DOLLARS (\$151,582.13) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE INSPECTION DEPOSIT TRUST FUND (804) TO THE INSPECTION DEPOSIT TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (804.000.50000).

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall Building Department collects monies for building inspections and plan reviews, which are to be recorded in the Inspection Deposit Trust Fund (804); and

WHEREAS, these monies were inadvertently recorded in the General Fund (101); and

WHEREAS, the funds collected for inspections and plan reviews must be transferred from the General Fund (101) to the Inspection Deposit Trust Fund (804); NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That this Council approves a fund transfer in the amount one hundred fifty one thousand five hundred eighty two and 13/100 dollars (\$151,582.13) from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Inspection Deposit Trust Fund (804) and a supplemental appropriation in the amount of one hundred fifty one thousand five hundred eighty two and 13/100 dollars (\$151,582.13) from unappropriated funds in the Inspection Deposit Trust Fund (804) to the Inspection deposit Trust Fund expense Fund Expense Account (804.000.50000).

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the stated purpose.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 019 -2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN AND 94/100 DOLLARS (\$9,347.94) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE PLUMBING PERMITS FUND (851) AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ON THE AMOUNT OF NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN AND 94/100 DOLLARS (\$9,347.94) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE PLUMBING PERMITS FUND (851) TO THE PLUMBING PERMITS EXPENSE ACCOUNT (851.000.50000).

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall Building Department collects monies for plumbing permits, which are to be recorded in the Plumbing Permits Fund (851); and

WHEREAS, these monies were inadvertently recorded in the General Fund (101); and

WHEREAS, the funds collected for plumbing permits must be transferred from the General Fund (101) to the Plumbing Permits Fund (851); now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That this Council approves a fund transfer in the amount nine thousand three hundred forty seven and 94/100 dollars (\$9,347.94) from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Plumbing Permits Fund (851) and a supplemental appropriation in the amount of nine thousand three hundred forty seven and 94/100 dollars (\$9,347.94) from unappropriated funds in the Plumbing Permits Fund (851) to the Plumbing Permits Expense Account (851.000.50000).

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the stated purpose.

SECTION 3: That this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 007-2026

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN IRVIN AS THE 2025 LABOR /SERVICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Council to annually recognize and honor City employees who have performed their duties faithfully and in a consistent, persistent, and outstanding manner; and

WHEREAS, Dustin Irvin leads through his actions. He always asks for the most challenging jobs because he wants to stay busy. He cares about the finished product because his name is on it. He has never turned down overtime and is counted on to be at work and do the work that might not be desirable to others, especially on the weekends. He is frequently one of the first to solve complex tasks, with a great attitude. Dustin has brought a wealth of skills from his previous employment, becoming a tremendous teacher/trainer for the Service Garage. Because he often goes above and beyond in his duties, he is a frequently requested teammate by his coworkers.

WHEREAS, Dustin Irvin exceeds expectations and is responsive to the City and its customers’ needs; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the Council of the City of Whitehall does hereby recognize and honor Dustin Irvin as 2025 SERVICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR and by these presents expresses its appreciation to him for dependable and dedicated service.

SECTION 2: That said, Dustin Irvin will be and hereby is authorized to receive, in addition to his usual compensation and credits, a payment of three hundred fifty and no/100 dollars (\$350.00) from the Contingency Expense Account (101-950-59900) in recognition of this honor.

SECTION 3: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer for these funds for the purpose stated in this Resolution.

SECTION 4: That the Clerk of this Council be and is hereby directed to provide certified copies of this resolution to the Auditor, Treasurer, Human Resources, and Dustin Irvin.

SECTION 5: That this Resolution shall go into full force and effect at the earliest time provided by law.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 008-2026

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN MOONEY AS THE 2025 FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Council to annually recognize and honor City employees who have performed their duties faithfully and in a consistent, persistent and outstanding manner; and

WHEREAS, Justin Mooney has inspired his department by seeing his dedication to the FTO program and his commitment to continuous improvement through external training. His leadership as an Out-of-Class Lieutenant and Pump Operator clearly makes a significant impact on his crew and the entire division. The department thanks him for bringing positive energy and hard work to every shift.

WHEREAS, Justin Mooney exceeds expectations and is responsive to the City and its customers' needs; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the Council of the City of Whitehall does hereby recognize and honor Justin Mooney as 2025 FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR and by these presents expresses its appreciation to him for dependable and dedicated service.

SECTION 2: That said, Justin Mooney will be and hereby is authorized to receive, in addition to his usual compensation and credits, a payment of three hundred fifty and no/100 dollars (\$350.00) from the Contingency Expense Account (101-950-59900) in recognition of this honor.

SECTION 3: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer for these funds for the purpose stated in this Resolution.

SECTION 4: That the Clerk of this Council be and is hereby directed to provide certified copies of this resolution to the Auditor, Treasurer, Human Resources, and Justin Mooney.

SECTION 5: That this Resolution shall go into full force and effect at the earliest time provided by law.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested by: Michael T. Bivens, Mayor
Prepared by: Tracy Wentz, Director of Human Resources
Approved as to form: Brad Nicodemus, City Attorney BSN 2/23/2026

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2026

RECOGNIZING JASON KUBINSKI AS THE 2025 POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HIM A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Council to annually recognize and honor City employees who have performed their duties faithfully and in a consistent, persistent and outstanding manner; and

WHEREAS, Jason Kubinski, honored as Detective of the Year, is a cornerstone of investigative excellence within the Division. In 2025, he managed an extraordinary caseload of 190 cases, successfully resolving 119 of them, including some of the most serious crimes faced by the community. His tireless work ethic and commitment to justice ensure that victims receive the attention and resolution they deserve. Beyond his investigative duties, Detective Kubinski routinely assists with patrol operations, demonstrating versatility and teamwork. Trusted as a de facto leader, he consistently displays a positive, professional attitude that aligns with the mission and values of the department.

WHEREAS, Jason Kubinski exceeds expectations and is responsive to the City and its customers' needs; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the Council of the City of Whitehall does hereby recognize and honor Jason Kubinski as 2025 POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR and by these presents expresses its appreciation to him for dependable and dedicated service.

SECTION 2: That said, Jason Kubinski will be and hereby is authorized to receive, in addition to his usual compensation and credits, a payment of three hundred fifty and no/100 dollars (\$350.00) from the Contingency Expense Account (101-950-59900) in recognition of this honor.

SECTION 3: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer for these funds for the purpose stated in this Resolution.

SECTION 4: That the Clerk of this Council be and is hereby directed to provide certified copies of this resolution to the Auditor, Treasurer, Human Resources, and Jason Kubinski.

SECTION 5: That this Resolution shall go into full force and effect at the earliest time provided by law.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested by: Michael T. Bivens, Mayor
Prepared by: Tracy Wentz, Director of Human Resources
Approved as to form: Brad Nicodemus, City Attorney bsn/jo 2/23/2026

RESOLUTION NO. 010-2026

RECOGNIZING JULIE OGG AS THE 2025 ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND AWARDING HER A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$350.00) AS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Council to annually recognize and honor City employees who have performed their duties faithfully and in a consistent, persistent and outstanding manner; and

WHEREAS, Julie Ogg is the quintessential example of servant leadership. She is dependable, proactive, and always willing to step in to ensure issues are addressed promptly and thoughtfully. She conducts herself with integrity, respect, and a calm confidence even in challenging situations. Her communication is clear, courteous, and solution-oriented, fostering trust internally and externally. Julie is not only respected by folks in the three different categories of customers but equally by her peers in other jurisdictions and is often called upon for advice and direction. She has excelled in her profession through her certifications with OMCA as well as taking an active role on the OMCA Board along with running membership drives. She works effectively across departments, builds strong external partnerships, and actively engages with the community. Julie consistently goes above and beyond to support colleagues, residents, and Council members.

WHEREAS, Julie Ogg exceeds expectations and is responsive to the City and its customers' needs; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the Council of the City of Whitehall does hereby recognize and honor Julie Ogg as 2025 ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR and by these presents expresses its appreciation to her for dependable and dedicated service.

SECTION 2: That said, Julie Ogg will be and hereby is authorized to receive, in addition to her usual compensation and credits, a payment of three hundred fifty and no/100 dollars (\$350.00) from the Contingency Expense Account (101-950-59900) in recognition of this honor.

SECTION 3: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer for these funds for the purpose stated in this Resolution.

SECTION 4: That the Clerk of this Council be and is hereby directed to provide certified copies of this resolution to the Auditor, Treasurer, Human Resources, and Julie Ogg.

SECTION 5: That this Resolution shall go into full force and effect at the earliest time provided by law.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested by: Michael T Bivens, Mayor
Prepared by: Tracy Wentz, Director of Human Resources
Approved as to form: Brad Nicodemus, City Attorney BSN 2/23/2026