



WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 3, 2026 Agenda & Regular Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Dr. Nathan Harris, President & CEO of See Brilliance

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:

No legislation for Third Reading.

SECOND 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.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 020-2026

ADVANCING TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$250,000.00) FROM PREVIOUSLY UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE FLEET RESERVE & MAINTENANCE FUND (313) AND APPROPRIATING TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$250,000.00) FROM THE FLEET RESERVE & MAINTENANCE FUND (313) TO THE FLEET RESERVE & MAINTENANCE EXPENSE ACCOUNT (313.000.50000).

ORDINANCE NO. 021-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$400,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE CITY HALL RENO FUND (330) TO THE 330.000.50000 CITY HALL RENO EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE TO REQUIRE SPECIAL PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF DETENTION FACILITIES.

ORDINANCE NO. 023-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL 161 TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

POLL PUBLIC:

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

POLL COUNCIL:

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

ADJOURN

Whitehall City Council Meeting

March 3, 2026 Meeting minutes

President Potter ordered the Tuesday, March 3, 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 6:39 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 17, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

Whitehall City Council Meeting

March 3, 2026 Meeting minutes

Call to Order

President Potter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber at City Hall on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

President Potter led the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Clerk Ogg called roll with all members present: Councilor Elmore, Councilor Morrison, Councilor Harcar, Councilor Adkins, Councilor McCann, Councilor Dixon, Councilor Brown, and President Potter.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Councilor Harcar moved to approve the February 16, 2026 special meeting minutes, February 17, 2026, agenda and regular meeting minutes, and February 24, 2026, committee meeting minutes. Councilor Adkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: 2025 Employees of the Year

President Potter introduced the recognition of 2025 employees of the year, noting that three employees were recognized at the previous evening's State of the City event, with one additional employee being honored at this meeting.

President Potter presented Resolution 010-2026 recognizing Julie Ogg as the 2025 Administrative Support Employee of the Year. He praised Ogg's leadership qualities, describing her as dependable, proactive, and possessing calm confidence in challenging situations. He highlighted her professional certifications with OMCA, her active role on the OMCA board, and her ability to work effectively across departments while building strong external partnerships and community engagement. Ms. Ogg is to receive a one-time payment of \$350 as additional compensation.

Presentation: Tom Ricchiuto, Senior Manager, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors

City Auditor Alexander introduced Tom Ricchiuto from Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, explaining that Baker Tilly serves as the city's municipal adviser on debt issuance and that this presentation would complement his previous report by covering long-term debt and debt service information.

Municipal Adviser Role and Responsibilities

Mr. Ricchiuto explained that Baker Tilly serves as a municipal adviser under 2015 federal legislation, which requires them to operate with fiduciary duty to the city. He emphasized their duty of care and loyalty, ensuring recommendations serve the city's best interests rather than generating revenue for the firm. Their services include bonds and notes assistance, financial planning, and cash flow management.

Outstanding Debt Overview

Mr. Ricchiuto presented the city's debt portfolio of approximately \$32 million in outstanding principal, consisting primarily of:

- General Obligation Bonds (unvoted): \$18.7 million, secured by property tax pledge but typically repaid through income tax
- Non-tax Revenue Bonds: Secured by licenses, fines, forfeitures, and interest income, typically used for economic development purposes
- Franklin County Infrastructure Bank Loan: Approximately \$2 million secured by income tax

The debt carries a blended average interest rate of 3-4%, with individual rates ranging from 1% to 6%. The debt amortizes over 30 years through 2055, with the majority paid off within the next 10-15 years.

Debt Capacity Analysis

Mr. Ricchiuto explained Ohio's two types of debt limits:

Direct Debt Limit: Easily circumvented by pledging non-property tax revenues. The city has \$11.5 million in unvoted debt capacity and \$31.2 million in combined voted/unvoted capacity, though this limit rarely constrains cities.

Indirect Debt Limit: Cannot be circumvented and applies only to unvoted debt. This "10 mil cap" represents 1% of the property valuation across all overlapping subdivisions that tax Whitehall residents. Currently, 4.5 mils are being used, leaving 5.5 mils of capacity. This translates to approximately \$26.7 million in additional unvoted debt capacity.

Credit Rating and Financial Metrics

The city maintains an "A" rating from S&P Global for both general obligation and non-tax revenue bonds, which is considered investment grade and stable.

Mr. Ricchiuto reviewed key financial performance metrics:

- **Financial Performance:** The city has averaged 10% surpluses over the last three years, well above S&P's 3% threshold for the highest category
- **Fund Balance:** At 21.2% of annual revenues, exceeding S&P's 15% threshold for the healthiest category
- **Debt Burden:** At 14.8% of total revenues, placing the city at the middle range (category 3 of 6), though close to achieving category 2 status

Council Discussion

Councilor Brown inquired about the city's capacity to issue additional debt, given strong reserves and liquidity. Mr. Ricchiuto confirmed the city has capacity for additional debt but emphasized the need for holistic financial planning to ensure adequate security margins as debt grows.

Councilor Brown asked about the category 3 debt rating. Mr. Ricchiuto explained that this is typical for Ohio cities and noted the city is very close to achieving category 2 status. City Auditor Alexander added that the city is less than one percentage point away from category 2 in the primary metric.

Councilor Harcar asked about typical debt levels for similar cities. Mr. Ricchiuto confirmed that with income tax revenues of approximately \$35 million and debt of \$32 million, the city's 1:1 ratio is typical and not uncommon.

The presentation concluded with no immediate plans for debt issuance, and Mr. Ricchiuto emphasized that all metrics indicate strong fiscal management, with no cause for concern regarding the city's current rating or financial status.

Presentation: Department of Neighborhoods

Mayor Bivens introduced Mr. Gerald Wright as the new Director of Neighborhoods, praising him as a dynamic, transformational leader who has embraced the department's vision. The Mayor emphasized his collaborative management approach and expressed excitement about his operational contributions to the city in 2026.

Director Wright's Vision and Approach

Director Wright thanked the council for the opportunity to serve as Whitehall's first Director of Neighborhoods. He explained that the department represents more than just a new organizational unit—it embodies the council's commitment to meeting residents where they are, ensuring every resident feels seen, supported, and engaged.

Director Wright identified a fundamental challenge: neighborhood issues rarely fit neatly within a single department, yet uncoordinated responses can leave residents feeling unclear and frustrated. He emphasized that residents see "the city" as one entity, expecting unified responses regardless of which department handles specific issues.

90-Day Implementation Plan

Director Wright outlined his first 90 days focusing on three key areas:

Listening and Alignment: Individual meetings with each council member to understand neighborhood issues they hear most frequently and identify priority areas. He also planned meetings with department heads and staff to understand current workflows and processes. Most importantly, he committed to establishing resident listening sessions both online and in-person to ensure accessibility for all residents.

Building Structure: Director Wright acknowledged this represents his steepest learning curve, requiring an understanding of current issue resolution processes, departmental response patterns, and mapping the most frequent types of concerns brought to the city. His goal is developing clear knowledge of which department should respond to which issues and when, ultimately setting realistic expectations for residents about contact points, processes, and timelines.

Early Wins: Director Wright emphasized the importance of residents seeing early indications of being seen, heard, and supported. He planned to implement a coordinated response pilot to identify and eliminate bottlenecks, develop a "where do I go for" guide to simplify resident access to services, focus on multilingual communication to serve Whitehall's diverse population, and establish regular interdepartmental communication to ensure unified responses.

Collaboration and Partnership

Director Wright stressed that successful implementation requires partnership, particularly with the council. He committed to providing regular updates about neighborhood activities, maintaining responsive communication with council inquiries, and ensuring residents receive quick, transparent, and effective responses when council members refer issues to the department.

Director Wright concluded by expressing his commitment to building a department that the council, mayor, and all Whitehall stakeholders can be proud of, emphasizing their collective ability to "do something about it" for the city's residents.

Council Discussion

Councilor Harcar welcomed Director Wright and expressed interest in meeting with him to discuss concerns. She noted expectations for results and suggested exploring ways to quantify the department's financial impact, drawing parallels to domestic violence advocacy work where investment in residents pays long-term dividends.

Councilor Brown thanked Director Wright for the presentation and asked about initial ideas for improving follow-through with residents, noting this as a frequently mentioned concern. Director Wright acknowledged this as a priority area, observing that often good work happens but residents don't

see or hear about it. He emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between actual resolution and resident awareness.

Councilor Brown also inquired about proactive community engagement beyond crisis response. Director Wright responded that meaningful resident assessments would be crucial, allowing residents to define success rather than having it defined by staff.

Councilor McCann questioned how the department's services would avoid redundancy with existing services. Director Wright explained the department's core function as coordination and cohesion rather than doing different work. He emphasized that no one currently owns the responsibility for being on the ground, gathering resident feedback about whether current services meet expectations, and identifying unmet needs.

Councilor Dixon congratulated Director Wright and expressed support for the department's vision of ensuring people are seen, supported, and engaged. He emphasized the need for coordination where none currently exists and praised the concept of connecting services to meet resident needs.

Councilor Elmore expressed excitement about the department, noting her experience seeing the need for such coordination through her work with residents. She asked about Director Wright's preferred communication methods, and he responded that all mediums are equal, with the determining factors being time and circumstances.

Councilor Morrison inquired about examples of partnership with council. Director Wright outlined two key examples: providing council members with a direct line of communication when residents bring issues, and working with council to address neighborhood issues that residents share with their representatives but may not communicate directly to city staff.

The presentation concluded with Director Wright's commitment to beginning formal work on March 16, 2026, and his willingness to provide informed responses to council questions after starting in his official capacity.

Standing Committee Reports

1. Administration and Financial Management

Councilor Elmore reported that the committee met last week with several pieces of legislation on the evening's agenda. Minutes are on file, and the committee will meet again next week at 6:30 PM.

2. Community and Elder Advocacy

Councilor Harcar reported the committee met last week and will meet again next Tuesday after 6:30 PM. Minutes are on file.

3. Community Standards and Enforcement

Councilor McCann reported the committee met last Tuesday with minutes on file. The committee has no current legislation and will meet again next Tuesday at 6:30 PM.

4. Economic Development

Councilor Dixon reported the committee met last week with minutes on file. There is nothing on the evening's agenda, and the committee will meet next week sometime after 6:30 PM.

5. Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services

Councilor Brown reported the committee met last week with minutes on file and will meet again next Tuesday at 6:30 PM.

6. Public Safety

Councilor Dixon reported the committee met last week with minutes on file, will meet again next week sometime after 6:30 PM, and has several items for consideration this evening.

7. Parks and Recreation

Councilor Adkins reported the committee met last Tuesday with nothing on the evening's agenda and will meet again next Tuesday sometime after 6:30 PM.

Officials' Reports

Mayor Michael T. Bivens

Mayor Bivens thanked all city staff and council members who attended the previous evening's State of the City event, calling it a great success. He expressed particular gratitude for Real Situation's automobile donation to residents, noting the overwhelming joy of recipients.

The Mayor congratulated Whitehall schools for conducting a mock trial at City Hall, calling it a fantastic event.

Regarding the Department of Neighborhoods discussion, Mayor Bivens emphasized his duty as duly elected mayor to manage the city effectively, noting his two years and 63 days in office despite what he characterized as "an agenda to overturn an election." He detailed his management approach, including replacing the city administrator position with separate public service and economic development directors, which the council authorized and budgeted.

Mayor Bivens described his hands-on approach to city management, including walking every street, visiting every business in each ward, and personally responding to crises like oil spills, where he knocked on nearly 100 residents' doors for health checks. He noted implementing a community van that has delivered over 400 food boxes to food-insecure residents, many of whom told him no city representative had ever visited them before.

The Mayor shared a recent example of personally helping an evicted resident connect with outside services, demonstrating the relationship-building and knowledge required for effective resident assistance. He emphasized his collaborative approach while maintaining that council members should care about neighborhood issues beyond their mayoral interactions.

Mayor Bivens expressed frustration with council members who claim to be too busy to read legislation while questioning their ability to help residents. He stressed his obligation to help residents where they live, emphasizing his love for the city and its residents.

The Mayor highlighted concerning statistics: Whitehall leads Central Ohio in poverty rates and infant mortality, meaning babies in Whitehall die before age one at higher rates than anywhere else in Central Ohio due to poverty. He argued these statistics make celebration inappropriate when fundamental problems remain unaddressed.

Mayor Bivens characterized opposition to the Department of Neighborhoods as partisan despite the city's nonpartisan nature, stating some council members came with an "anti-mayor Bivens agenda." He outlined his actual agenda: healthy families, lowered poverty rates, increased job opportunities, collaboration, openness, and building a bigger tent. He challenged anti-Bivens sentiment as anti-resident sentiment.

The Mayor concluded by pleading with council to vote "no" on Ordinance 008-2026 to allow moving forward with city work, emphasizing Whitehall's identity as "the city of opportunity" and the need to represent the city positively rather than perpetuating negative perceptions.

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus

City Attorney Nicodemus indicated he had an update on Avery's law and changes after consulting with Director Rowlands and the animal control officer, but opted to defer this non-urgent item to the next council meeting due to the lengthy agenda.

Councilor Elmore inquired about the State of the City mention of Fairway Cliffs overlay being "unconstitutional." Attorney Nicodemus clarified that Article 2, sections 28-29 of the Ohio Constitution

and approximately 100 years of case law prohibit retroactive application of laws, including zoning laws. Because the Fairway Cliffs plat was approved prior to the overlay district approval, the Ohio Constitution prohibits retroactively applying the moratorium and building restrictions to that plat. However, the overlay district standards apply to all future development, and any new development proposals would be subject to the overlay provisions.

City Auditor Shaquille Alexander

City Auditor Alexander briefly attended the State of the City and enjoyed Mayor Bivens highlighting fiscal operations and results, though he noted the Mayor understated their achievements. He clarified that the general fund ended 2025 at \$6.9 million, and coupled with the \$1.5 million budget reserve, totals \$8.4 million—a level unprecedented in their accounting software history.

Auditor Alexander reported extending an offer to a qualified tax clerk from Stow, Ohio, but she sought other opportunities that better matched her qualifications. They are currently accepting more applications and scheduling interviews.

He announced plans to deliver council legislation for modifying personnel in his office, changing an executive assistant role to a payroll clerk to support the payroll function. Currently, one person manages payroll for the entire city, and he considers her overworked and underpaid.

He thanked Councilor Brown for meeting with him despite the complexity of city finance, noting Councilor Brown's patience during their detailed discussion. He personally congratulated Julie Ogg, considering her both a great resource and friend who serves as a mentor as he adapts to his role.

Auditor Alexander emphasized the city's solid financial position, citing consistent messages from himself, predecessor Steven Quincel, and external auditors. He highlighted strong revenues, controlled costs, and progress toward their goal of increasing the credit rating since 2022, noting Baker Tilly's confirmation that metrics are improving and on track.

Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands

Director Rowlands congratulated Mayor Bivens on the successful State of the City and congratulated street laborer Dustin Irvin for his employee of the year award, along with Julie Ogg and other winners.

She requested unfavorable consideration of Ordinance 008-2026 and favorable consideration of Ordinances 012, 018, and 019, speaking on behalf of Director Russell as well.

Treasurer Trevel Balse

Treasurer Balse provided an update on his onboarding process. He received equipment and access to files and bank accounts the previous week and scheduled his bonding appointment for the following morning. After bonding, he will begin daily deposits and planned to meet with City Auditor Alexander on Thursday for several hours of training. He expected to begin analyzing data soon and provide substantive reports in the near future.

Communications, Petitions, and Claims

President Potter reported that no communications, petitions, or claims have been filed in the council office since the last meeting.

Poll Public

Several residents spoke during the first public comment period:

Micole Spicer spoke in unfavorably of ordinance 008-2026 to defund the Department of Neighborhoods, expressing confusion about opposition to helping unhoused and hungry residents. She stated that a "yes" vote would indicate council members don't care about constituents.

Diane Peters urged council not to defund the Department of Neighborhoods before it has a chance to operate. She argued against making decisions based on personalities or party affiliations, encouraging council members to speak with their own voices and consciences. Ms. Peters noted that defunding an already-approved program makes the city appear weak and unorganized. She specifically addressed several council members by name, urging them to consider residents who need help and are falling through existing service cracks. She concluded by asking what happens when someone "doesn't have boots" to pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

Brian Winston characterized the Department of Neighborhoods as an investment in Whitehall's future and community stability. He emphasized the department's role as a clear, accessible point of contact for residents and its potential for door-to-door resident engagement. Mr. Winston argued that strong neighborhoods reduce long-term costs through increased civic participation, property maintenance, and community vibrancy, making prevention more cost-effective than repair. He urged council not to defund the initiative before proper evaluation and measurable outcomes can occur.

Marie Long described the previous evening's State of the City as "powerful" and emphasized the overwhelming support for the Department of Neighborhoods. She noted Mayor Bivens' personal involvement during the oil spill, questioning why ward representatives weren't also knocking on doors. Ms. Long criticized council members for never asking her opinion about the department and expressed disappointment with council members' behavior at the State of the City event.

Eddie Johnson shared his personal story of homelessness for 16 months before becoming a Whitehall resident in March 2025. He credited Mayor Bivens with reaching out to him and encouraging his church attendance, leading to positive life changes. Mr. Johnson reported being cancer-free for nine days and having a head tumor successfully treated through chemotherapy. He expressed strong support for Mayor Bivens.

Verification of Copies

Clerk Ogg confirmed all council members received copies of the agenda and draft legislation prior to the meeting.

Third Reading

Ordinance No. 008-2026

Motion: Councilman Morrison moved to adopt Ordinance 008-2026, amending Ordinance 118-2025, making appropriation for current general fund (101) expenses for the Department of Neighborhoods and declaring an emergency. Councilman Dixon seconded.

Discussion: The ordinance generated extensive debate about the Department of Neighborhoods' necessity and effectiveness.

Councilor Harcar strongly opposed defunding the department, citing her experience volunteering at food giveaways and witnessing increasing need. She described unprecedented demand at food events, including those hosted by Mayor Bivens and local churches, with residents arriving earlier each time.

Councilor Harcar noted extensive public testimony about homelessness, food insecurity, and families needing support, arguing that removing funding when the department could make significant impact is irresponsible. She emphasized that people struggling with poverty sometimes cannot afford to work due to costs for uniforms, transportation, or lack of permanent addresses. Councilor Harcar viewed the department as financially responsible and beneficial.

Councilor Elmore supported opposing the defunding ordinance, sharing her experience with Bottoms Up Company's diaper distribution program, which doubled in Whitehall compared to other cities. She described residents choosing between medication and food due to rising insurance costs, emphasizing

that healthy people create healthy communities. Councilor Elmore stated that serving the community is council's primary responsibility and questioned the purpose of council service if not to help residents in need.

Councilor McCann indicated likely support for the ordinance but wanted to clarify his opposition wasn't based on lack of caring for residents. He detailed his personal history of helping homeless individuals, including paying utility bills out of his own pocket. However, McCann expressed concerns about the department's potential redundancy with existing services.

Councilor Dixon stated fatigue with being "chastised" by fellow councilors and defended his duly elected representation of Ward 1 residents. While acknowledging poverty concerns, he emphasized broader systemic issues, noting the existence of individuals worth nearly \$1 trillion while discussing local spending. Councilor Dixon argued that proper federal taxation would better address these issues, though he acknowledged his inability to control federal policy.

Councilor Brown viewed the department as complementary to existing volunteer efforts rather than competitive, noting disconnects between residents' experiences with different council members. He emphasized the importance of listening to administration representatives who work with thousands of residents daily rather than the smaller numbers individual council members might encounter. Councilor Brown praised Eddie Johnson's story as an example of successful outcomes from contested projects like the apartment complex, suggesting similar future success stories from the Department of Neighborhoods.

Vote: The motion failed 4-3 (Morrison, McCann, Dixon in favor; Elmore, Harcar, Adkins, Brown opposed), meaning the Department of Neighborhoods will not be defunded.

Second Reading

Resolution No. 005-2026

Motion: Councilor Brown moved to suspend rules and adopt Resolution 005-2026, approving revisions to the investment policy of the City of Whitehall and declaring an emergency. Councilman Adkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously for rule suspension and adoption.

First Reading

The council unanimously suspended rules and adopted multiple ordinances and resolutions on first reading:

Ordinance No. 011-2026

Title-only reading authorizing adoption of May 2026 replacement pages to codified ordinances.

Ordinance No. 012-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, authorizing supplemental appropriation of \$203,342.37 from unappropriated monies in fund 279 to Hamilton/Broad TIF expense account. Councilman Brown seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 013-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, authorizing fund transfer of \$68,650.42 from general fund to debt service fund. Councilor Brown seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 014-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, approving supplemental appropriation of \$4,090 from police department grant fund to Ohio Traffic Safety Office Grant expense account. Councilor Morrison seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 015-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, authorizing fund transfer of \$30,306 from evidence set aside fund to law enforcement trust fund with corresponding supplemental appropriation. Councilor Morrison seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 016-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, approving fund transfer of \$57,920.89 from general fund to debt service fund. Councilor McCann seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 017-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, making supplemental appropriation of \$25,000 from recreation trust fund to expense account. Councilor McCann seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 018-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, authorizing fund transfer of \$151,582.13 from general fund to inspection deposit trust fund with corresponding supplemental appropriation. Councilor Morrison seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 019-2026

Motion: Councilor Elmore moved to suspend rules and adopt, authorizing fund transfer of \$9,347.94 from general fund to plumbing permits fund with corresponding supplemental appropriation. Councilor Brown seconded. Passed unanimously.

Employee Recognition Resolutions

The council unanimously adopted four resolutions recognizing 2025 employees of the year, each awarding \$350 additional compensation:

Resolution No. 007-2026

Motion: Councilor Dixon moved to suspend rules and adopt, recognizing Dustin Irvin as 2025 labor/service employee of the year. Councilor McCann seconded. Passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 008-2026

Motion: Councilor Harcar moved to suspend rules and adopt, recognizing Justin Mooney as 2025 firefighter/paramedic employee of the year. Councilor Elmore seconded. Passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 009-2026

Motion: Councilor Morrison moved to suspend rules and adopt, recognizing Jason Kubinski as 2025 police officer employee of the year. Councilor Elmore seconded. Passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 010-2026

Motion: Councilor Morrison moved to suspend rules and adopt, recognizing Julie Ogg as 2025 administrative/support employee of the year. Councilor Harcar seconded. Passed unanimously.

Councilor Dixon praised Julie Ogg's professionalism and courtesy throughout his interactions with her across different roles, noting her consistent helpfulness and pleasant demeanor even during contentious situations.

Poll Public

No additional residents spoke during the second public comment period.

Recess

President Potter called a five-minute recess before proceeding with the remaining agenda items, noting the lengthy nature of the upcoming rules of procedure discussion.

Reconvene

The council meeting was reconvened at 9:30 PM to address motions regarding the 2026-27 rules of procedure.

Motions on 2026-2027 Rules of Procedure for the Council

President Potter established the format for proceeding through 44 items, explaining that each item could either receive no motion (resulting in no action), a motion to adopt as written, or a motion to adopt with amendments.

City Attorney Nicodemus requested that, after all amendments are considered, a comprehensive vote be held at a future meeting on the complete amended rules package to ensure accuracy and allow council members to review the final document.

Rule Item Processing

Item 1: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion passed with Councilors Elmore, Harcar, Adkins, and Brown voting yes; Councilors McCann, Morrison, and Dixon voting no.

Item 2: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor Adkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4: Councilor Elmore moved to adopt as amend, the language regarding "2 thirds affirmative vote" to include "(5)" in parentheses throughout the document for clarity. Councilor Brown seconded the motion. The amendment and adoption passed unanimously.

Item 5: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion passed with Councilors Morrison, Adkins, Dixon, and Brown voting yes; Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and McCann voting no.

Item 6: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor McCann. Councilor Harcar initially asked about making amendments but was advised to wait for the vote. The motion passed with Councilors Morrison, Adkins, McCann, and Dixon voting yes; Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and Brown voting no.

Item 7: Councilor Harcar moved to amend by striking "address" from the requirement, seconded by Councilor Elmore. City Attorney Nicodemus clarified that this would leave only the name requirement. The amendment passed with all members except Councilor Dixon voting yes.

Items 8A-8D: These items addressing public comment procedures were handled separately:

- 8A: Councilor Harcar moved to amend the speaking time from 5 minutes to 3 minutes, seconded by Councilor Elmore. The amendment passed unanimously.
- 8B: Councilor Harcar attempted to strike language about obscenity, expressing concern about limiting council speech when reading official documents. Her amendment failed. Councilor Dixon then moved to adopt 8B as written, seconded by Councilor Morrison. This passed with Councilors Morrison, Adkins, McCann, and Dixon voting yes.
- 8C and 8D: Both were adopted as written with unanimous votes.

Items 9-11: No motions were made, resulting in no action on these items.

Item 12: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 13: Councilor Harcar moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor Elmore. The motion failed with Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and Brown voting yes; others voting no.

Item 14: Councilor Morrison moved to adopt with amendments to reorganize the order of officials' reports. The amendments included moving the treasurer position after the city attorney (as an elected official), and adding the director of the department of neighborhoods as item 8, with the president of council becoming item 9. Councilor Morrison suggested further reorganization to group elected officials together. After discussion, the final order was established with treasurer as item 4 and director of the department of neighborhoods as item 8. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Items 15-16: Both were adopted as written with unanimous votes on item 15; item 16 passed with Councilor Elmore and Harcar voting no.

Item 17: Councilor Harcar moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor Elmore. The motion failed with only Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and Brown voting yes.

Items 18: Adopted as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 19: Councilor Dixon introduced a motion to strike item number 2, seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion passed with only Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and Brown voting no.

Item 20: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as written, seconded by Councilor Morrison. Motion passed with Councilors Elmore and Harcar voting no.

Item 21: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt as amended by striking "clerk of council" and replacing it with "any council member," seconded by Councilor Morrison. The amendment passed with Councilors Morrison, Adkins, McCann, and Dixon voting yes.

Items 22-25: These items regarding public participation procedures underwent various amendments:

- Item 22: Adopted as written with minor discussion about address requirements. Motion passed with Councilors Elmore and Brown voting no.
- Item 23: Councilor Dixon moved to amend by striking "at his or her discretion may" and replacing it with "shall," seconded by Councilor Morrison. The amendment passed with only Councilor Elmore voting no.
- Item 24: Councilor Dixon moved to amend by striking "address" references and replacing with "city," seconded by Councilor McCann. The amendment passed with Councilors Elmore and Brown voting no.

- Item 25: Councilor Dixon moved to adopt with extensive amendments to simplify the language about public speaking sessions, reducing it to "allowing people 2- 3 minute sessions to speak on any topics." Seconded by Councilor McCann. The amendment passed unanimously.

Item 26: No action was taken.

Item 27: Adopted unanimously as written.

Item 28: Adopted unanimously as written.

Item 29: Adopted as written, with Councilors McCann and Dixon voting no.

Item 30: Adopted unanimously as written.

Item 31: Adopted as written, with Councilor Dixon voting no.

Item 32: Adopted as written, with Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and Brown voting no.

Item 33: Adopted as written, with Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and Brown voting no.

Item 34: Adopted as written, with Councilor Brown voting no.

Item 35: Adopted as written, with Councilor Dixon voting no.

Item 36: Adopted unanimously as written.

Item 37: No action was taken, as this item was already covered in existing rules.

Items 38-39: No action was taken due to no action taken on item 37.

Item 40: Adopted unanimously as written.

Item 41: This item regarding speaking time during poll council underwent significant debate. Councilor Harcar initially moved to reduce speaking time from 5 minutes to 3 minutes, which failed.

Councilor Dixon then moved to adopt as written but with amendments to strike language about interruptions, arguing it was superfluous during poll council. Seconded by Councilor Adkins. Motion passed with Councilors Elmore, Harcar, and Brown voting no.

After extensive discussion involving City Attorney Nicodemus about parliamentary procedure, the final amendment included restoring interruption language with presidential discretion for additional time. The final version read: "Each speaker will get 3 minutes for poll council. If the speaker is interrupted or faces objection during their presentation, at the president's discretion, they may be given additional time for their comments." This passed unanimously.

Item 42: Councilor Elmore moved to amend by striking "no" and adding "are silenced" so the rule would read "cell phones are silenced on the dais" and striking "counselors only." Seconded by Councilor Harcar. The amendment passed unanimously.

Item 43: Councilor Harcar moved to amend the sign policy to allow signs in council chambers with specific restrictions: Sign holders must stand in the back, signs cannot be larger than 2 feet by 1.5 feet, and reasonable accommodations would be made for disabled individuals. Seconded by Councilor Elmore. The amendment passed with Councilors Morrison, McCann, and Dixon voting no.

Item 44: Councilor Elmore moved to strike this entire section covering Robert's Rules procedures, arguing that council members lack parliamentary training and the rules were confusing without professional parliamentarian guidance. Seconded by Councilor Brown. Her motion to strike failed.

Councilor Dixon then moved to adopt the individual sub-items, with items 44.1 and 44.2 passing individually.

Councilor McCann then moved to adopt the remainder of section 44 in its entirety, which passed with the same voting pattern as previous items.

The rules review process concluded with plans to compile all amendments into a comprehensive document for final ratification at a future meeting.

Community Date Board

Councilor Harcar announced that the United Methodist Church will hold a food giveaway on Saturday morning, March 7th. She noted that these giveaways occur on the first Saturday of every month through November, with potential scheduling adjustments in July depending on holiday timing.

Director Russell mentioned that the Bishop Hurley Hawks will play in the regional finals on Thursday at Ohio Dominican at 8 PM against Granville, describing it as a matchup between the 1 seed and 3 seed.

Councilor McCann encouraged community support for the Rosemore Middle School girls' softball team, noting that the players are predominantly new or have only one year of experience. He indicated that games typically occur after school from 3 to 6 PM, likely on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and promised to follow up with specific dates.

Poll Council

There were brief closing comments from council members congratulating city employees on their recognition and expressing appreciation for various community initiatives.

Adjourn

President Potter adjourned the meeting at 10:37 PM.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 17, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

City of Whitehall
City Council Committee Meeting
March 10, 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.

Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands and Director of Economic Development Jackie Russell.

Committee of the Whole Legislation/Issues

Second Reading

Ordinance No. 011-2026

President Potter welcomed everyone to the Whitehall City Council Committee Meeting for Tuesday, March 10, 2026. He noted there were a couple of items on the agenda, beginning with three pieces of draft legislation. Under second reading, he addressed Ordinance 011-2026, authorizing the adoption of May 2026 replacement pages to codify orders to the city of Whitehall declaring an emergency. President Potter indicated they had talked this through pretty well and noted it would be introduced by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Adkins.

Before moving into standing committees, President Potter acknowledged that everyone should have received a copy of the draft with Julie's changes marked in red and Brad's changes in blue. He asked everyone to read it at their leisure, indicating they would be moving on that item the following week, and thanked Julie for getting it out in a timely manner.

Administration and Financial Management

Councilor Elmore opened the Administration and Financial Management committee at 6:32 PM.

Draft 1 - Ordinance 020-2026

Councilor Elmore presented the first draft, Ordinance 020-2026, up for first reading and adoption on March 17, 2026. The ordinance would advance \$250,000.00 from previously unappropriated monies in the general fund 101 to the fleet reserve and maintenance fund 313, and appropriate \$250,000.00 from the fleet reserve and maintenance fund 313 to the fleet reserve and maintenance expense account 313.000.50000. She explained that the police department and service department were approved for purchases of multiple replacement vehicles, which would be outfitted.

Director Rowlands provided additional context, explaining that essentially they were doing this as an advance since the 313 is an end-of-month transfer account that only receives a small percentage of what is in the general fund each month. Unfortunately, there was currently not

enough to cover the fleet purchases for the service department, which included a dump truck, as well as a couple of vehicles for the police department. He clarified they were taking that money and putting it in so they could make those purchases, and as it grows through the end of the year and gets to that point, they would then put it back from the 313 into the 101.

Councilor Elmore asked if anybody had questions regarding that matter and noted they would need a second. She called on Councilor Morrison to second. After some light-hearted exchanges about throwing pen tops, they moved forward.

Draft 2 - Ordinance 021-2026

Councilor Elmore presented draft 2, Ordinance 021-2026, up for first reading and adoption on March 17, 2026. This ordinance would authorize and approve an appropriation of \$400,000.00 from unappropriated monies in the city hall renovation fund 330 to the 330.000.50000 City Hall renovation expense account, funded by the capital facilities bond to finance improvement of City Hall's building and exterior renovations.

Director Rowlands explained they had pulled \$1,600,000.00 from that bond for the City Hall renovation, with the majority obviously going to the exterior renovation. They had about \$400,000.00 left in the fund, so the money was there. This was just to move it into the expense account so they could start looking at interior renovations, with a hint that hopefully this would include the current meeting room.

Councilor Elmore asked Councilor Brown to second.

President Potter interjected with enthusiasm about the possibility of new chairs, asking what Director Rowlands envisioned for the space. Director Rowlands responded that while there were no guarantees on everything, and it wouldn't cost \$400,000.00 to do this room alone, they were still in the planning phase of their plans throughout the buildings interior. He confirmed they definitely planned to replace the chairs in the public seating area and the carpet in the room. They were also looking at what they could do with the dais, the chairs, and everything else. Director Rowlands assured President Potter she would take that into consideration.

Councilor Elmore closed the Administration and Financial Management committee at 6:35 PM.

Community and Elder Advocacy

Councilor Harcar opened Community and Elder Advocacy at 6:35 PM, expressing surprise at opening so early and feeling caught off guard. She noted they had no drafts or pending legislation.

Chairperson Harcar reported she had been in a meeting earlier that week (noting it was only Tuesday but felt like a long week already) with the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition that she had joined and was part of. They were putting some things on the calendar, and she had asked somebody from the VA who was a member of that committee to come in and talk about suicide information for veterans. She was hoping to get a date back from them soon to have them come into council and speak, waiting on a response to get that set up. She acknowledged it was a difficult topic but emphasized it was much needed education and information.

Councilor Dixon reported he had had a Zoom meeting with Carolyn Thurman from Civic Uplift regarding the Whitehall Rise project, which dealt with arts in Whitehall. Several people were

in the meeting, it went well, and she made notes that would go back to the group for decisions. He wanted to let everyone know that happened and that it was a nice meeting.

Councilor Harcar closed Community and Elder Advocacy at 6:37 PM.

Community Standards and Enforcement

Councilor McCann opened Community Standards and Enforcement at 6:37 PM.

Draft 3 - Ordinance 022-2026

Councilor McCann presented Draft 3, Ordinance 022-2026, Community Standards and Enforcement third reading for adoption on April 21, 2026. He needed a second, which Councilor Dixon will provide.

This ordinance would amend the planning and zoning code to require special permits for the construction or operation of detention facilities. Director Russell was asked to expound on the matter.

Director Russell explained this was really more of an economic development item. They had many projects in their pipeline regarding warehouse space, with a good number creating jobs between 30 and 80 positions. They also had some that were recreation opportunities, which was a special use capability in their warehouse district. She described these as things like breweries or adaptive reuse for indoor pickle-ball or go-karts - destination places, which was something they talked about all the time since they didn't have things for kids or families to do. Both job creation and recreation opportunities would be very favorable in their warehouse spaces.

As they had been looking through the code, they realized that currently all government facilities were bundled together as a by-right permitted use. This meant if somebody wanted to build a detention facility, whether public or private, it wasn't really specified or listed, so it could come in as a government use by right and basically remove any of the projects they had that could require a special use permit or were still in due diligence. Director Russell emphasized they were very adamant about protecting their income tax base and opportunities in Whitehall.

To accomplish this protection, they were bringing forward this legislation which would make all detention facilities its own use in their use table and make them all special use permit requirements. This meant they would have to go to planning commission for recommendation and then through three readings at city council for that type of project.

Councilor Dixon asked if there was any other reasoning underneath or behind this approach. Director Russell confirmed there was, explaining that in the economic development world, there were many conversations about detention facilities among economic development directors and how they were being handled. She described it as a matter being discussed at each municipality or jurisdiction for how they felt best to handle it. For Whitehall, they hadn't received any applications or anything they were trying to block - they were just trying to be proactive so they have a policy and procedure if there were to be a request, proposal, or desire for something to be built. The underlying goal was to create a plan to protect their spaces.

President Potter asked if Director Russell saw other communities doing similar legislation if they didn't already have something in place. He was concerned about creating a situation where this was not a permitted use in many areas, narrowing the funnel so it just landed in a few different areas, questioning whether they would be one of those areas. Director Russell confirmed that the City of Columbus had already gone forward with theirs and was following

the same process by making detention facilities a special use permit. They were following the same cadence as another municipality so they wouldn't be alone on an island - there would be others. She knew other municipalities had told her they were analyzing it, but hadn't come out with their exact recommendation or moved forward with anything yet, but Columbus had already done so.

President Potter observed that this sounded like something that could gain more steam as it rolled down the tracks. Director Russell agreed it certainly would, noting detention centers were widely discussed and talked about. However, she mentioned that when the YMCA was being built, they had discussed the recreation facility and transportation issues regarding that, and with all the different kids and more families moving to Whitehall, if they could do a recreation center, that's where she would put her focus - something fun for the kids.

Councilor Elmore agreed, noting it was definitely needed because transportation to get down to the Y was challenging, and there was a cost involved as well. It was more feasible to have a recreation center because she had heard about families wanting a recreation center since 2014. She really thought they needed that in Whitehall.

Councilor Harcar chimed in with her thoughts about wanting a bigger event center, mentioning she knew there were some really nice locations nearby. While they had places like 2 Tones locally, she thought a bigger facility to host events would also be nice.

Director Russell responded enthusiastically that they had about 10 active projects in their economic development pipeline, up from what she described as zero when she walked in the door. She was excited about the variety because it wasn't just income tax or housing, but also these opportunities to have more attractions in Whitehall. She wanted to be intentional about protecting those spaces, especially the warehouse spaces, since they had very limited warehouse space. Her concern was having a use that doesn't really benefit their community in totality by not having some kind of protection for themselves.

Councilor Harcar reflected on Director Russell's comments about quantifying impact, thinking about whether they had a recreation center, a larger brewery where you bring food in, or an event center, and the impact that would have on their businesses. She noted she was a little biased but thought Whitehall had the best food ever, with some of the best restaurants in the area. If they got an event center or something similar, she thought it would also help their small businesses that were there if they were ones providing food or those types of services. This random thought popped into her head and she wanted to share it, though she was sure Director Russell already knew that. She also mentioned it would generate resources.

Councilor Dixon sought clarification, asking if Director Russell felt this was an economic development thing because of the economic development of the things they wished to put in these areas, or if it was community standards enforcement because they were talking about detention facilities. Director Russell responded that it probably had a foot in each bucket, involving both the way their space develops from an economic development standpoint and community concerns about whether detention facilities would make residents feel welcome and protected or make small businesses feel comfortable. She viewed it all as economic development because economic development was really community development - what you do impacts residents, businesses, school-age children, and adults, affecting everybody.

Councilor Harcar noted it could even go into community advocacy, as there were multiple different pockets it touched. Councilor Dixon agreed about the zoning part being community standards and enforcement, looking to Julie as the keeper of that knowledge.

President Potter observed it touches a lot of different spaces, and Director Russell agreed it was an item of isolation that impacts multiple committees.

Councilor McCann closed Community Standards and Enforcement at 6:46 PM.

Economic Development

Councilor Dixon opened Economic Development at 6:46 PM, noting there were no drafts and pending legislation in this committee. He asked Director Russell if she had anything for this committee, and she did not. Seeing nothing else, he closed Economic Development at 6:46 PM.

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services

Councilor Brown opened Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services at 6:47 PM, noting they did not currently have any drafts or pending legislation.

Director Rowlands reported they were getting very close to warmer weather and needed steady 50-degree temperatures for their asphalt plants to open. They were getting very close, so she had already spoken with Jayda about getting their projects ready to go, including getting projects like Yearling Road ready to be finished. She would be doing more updates on their Facebook page, so people should keep an eye out in the next couple of weeks. They were getting moving and were so close to the season starting.

Councilor Brown asked about the timeline for Yearling Road and what Director Rowlands' expectations were, understanding she had had a rough winter. Director Rowlands replied she actually had a meeting with the contractors the following day to discuss actual mobilization back on-site. She anticipated they would be back on-site doing different things within the next few weeks, though paving probably wouldn't start for about a month, give or take. She anticipated being off Yearling Road by the end of June or early July, really wanting to tear it up during the off-season of school to make as little impact as possible.

Councilor Brown closed Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services at 6:48 PM.

Public Safety

Councilor Morrison opened Public Safety at 6:48 PM, noting he wasn't familiar with this time frame and commenting they were moving quickly. He confirmed there was no legislation and asked if anyone had anything for safety at this time. Seeing nothing, he closed Public Safety at 6:48 PM.

Parks and Recreation

Councilor Adkins opened Parks and Recreation at 6:48 PM, noting there were no drafts or pending legislation. Councilor Harcar commented on the gorgeous weather, suggesting people go to the parks since they would be done soon. Nobody had anything further, so Councilor Adkins closed Parks and Recreation at 6:49 PM.

Additional Business

As President Potter was preparing to adjourn, Councilor Elmore interrupted to add legislation - Ordinance 023-2026, authorizing and approving an amendment to the codified ordinances of the City of Whitehall 161 table of authorized personnel for the fiscal year 2026 and declaring an emergency. This was a title change with the auditor's office, with pay remaining the same. Auditor Alexander had discussed this with them several times, and this was just putting it in writing.

President Potter asked if they wanted to move on it for three readings, but Councilor Elmore indicated they wanted it done right away in one reading since Auditor Alexander had discussed this multiple times. President Potter agreed they needed to get that moved, noting it would need to be added to the agenda and have someone introduce it, which would be Councilor Elmore. Councilor Morrison would second it.

President Potter thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Submitted by:

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: March 17, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

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. 020-2026

ADVANCING TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$250,000.00) FROM PREVIOUSLY UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE FLEET RESERVE & MAINTENANCE FUND (313) AND APPROPRIATING TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$250,000.00) FROM THE FLEET RESERVE & MAINTENANCE FUND (313) TO THE FLEET RESERVE & MAINTENANCE EXPENSE ACCOUNT (313.000.50000).

WHEREAS, the Whitehall Police Department and Whitehall Service Department were approved to purchase multiple replacement vehicles, which must be outfitted with specific equipment to make them fully functional; and

WHEREAS, the 313 account is an end-of-month transfer account; and

WHEREAS, the account will not be fully funded until the end of the year; and

WHEREAS, the funds are needed in the first quarter of 2026 to purchase said vehicles; and

WHEREAS, these advanced monies will be repaid to the General Fund (101) from the (313) funds generated by the end of 2026; and

WHEREAS, these funds require legislative approval for advance by the Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio; NOW THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: Making and approving a funding advance in the amount of two hundred fifty thousand and 00/100 (\$250,000.00) from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Fleet Reserve & Maintenance Fund (313) and appropriating two hundred fifty thousand and no/100 dollars (\$250,000.00) from the Fleet Reserve & Maintenance Fund (313) to the Fleet Reserve & Maintenance expense account (313.000.50000).

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

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 & Prepared by: Casey Rowlands, Director of Public Service
Approved as to financial form: Shaquille Alexander, City Auditor
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney bsn 03/006/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 021-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$400,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE CITY HALL RENO FUND (330) TO THE 330.000.50000 CITY HALL RENO EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

WHEREAS, the City issued Capital Facilities Bonds to finance improvements to the City Hall building in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City has completed the exterior renovations at City Hall under budget; and

WHEREAS, the City is preparing to assess the needs for various indoor renovations in City Hall; 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 an unappropriated amount of four hundred thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$400,000.00) from the City Hall Reno Fund (330) to City Hall Reno expense account (330.000.50000).

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

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE TO REQUIRE SPECIAL PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF DETENTION FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall has an obligation to enact policies that protect our residents; and

WHEREAS, amending the Planning and Zoning Code to prohibit the construction or operation of detention facilities without a special permit; NOW THEREFORE;

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

SECTION 1: Chapter 1128 of the Whitehall Codified Ordinances, the Planning and Zoning definitions, is hereby amended as follows:

* * *

Detention Facility means any place used for the confinement of a person arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense or charged with being or adjudicated to be a juvenile offender or held for extradition or as a material witness or otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a court or in any work release, furlough, or other such facility or program.

* * *

SECTION 2: Table 1103.02 STUR PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1103.02: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT</u> STUR | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

* * *

SECTION 3: Table 1103.03 MUR PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1103.03: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT</u> MUR | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2026

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

* * *

SECTION 4: Table 1104.02 BRD PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1104.02: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT</u> <u>BRD</u> | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

SECTION 5: Table 1104.03 MAIN PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1104.03: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT</u> <u>MAIN</u> | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

SECTION 6: Table 1104.04 SH PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1104.04: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT</u> <u>SH</u> | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2026

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

SECTION 7: Table 1104.05 YEAR PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1104.05: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT YEAR</u> | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

SECTION 8: Table 1104.06 CCD PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1104.06: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT CCD</u> | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

SECTION 9: Table 1105.02 MILO PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1105.02: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT MILO</u> | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2026

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

SECTION 10: Table 1105.03 INDD PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1105.03: PERMITTED LAND USES & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <u>LAND USE TYPE</u> | <u>PERMIT REQUIRED BY DISTRICT</u> <u>INDD</u> | <u>SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS</u> |
| <u>PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION</u> | | |
| * * * | | |
| Governmentally Owned and/or Operated Buildings and Facilities | | |
| <u>Detention Facility</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| * * * | | |

* * *

SECTION 11: Table 1108.01 COMPREHENSIVE USE TABLE shall read as follows:

* * *

| TABLE 1108.01 PRINCIPLE USES BY ZONING DISTRICT | | | | | | | | | | | USE DEFINITION & STANDARDS |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | STUR | MUR | BRD | MAIN | SH | YEAR | CCD | MILO | INDD | FP | |
| * * * | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PUBLIC FACILITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Detention Facility | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

* * *

SECTION 12: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the earliest time provided for by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026

ATTEST:

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2026

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026

Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 023-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL 161 TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the budget presented by various departments includes updated titles that best represent what employees do in their daily work and includes position(s) revised and/or no longer required; 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 the following changes to the Table of Authorized Personnel for the fiscal year 2026.

161.37 TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL.

The following legends shall apply to all tables delineating authorized strength:

| Column | Name | Code |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Position title | |
| 2 | Pay grade or salary pay range | SPR |
| 3 | Classified civil service | CCS |
| | Unclassified civil service | UCS |
| 4 | Number authorized | |
| 5 | Union bargaining unit | UBU |
| | Exempt from union | EFU |

(e) Office of the City Auditor and Tax Commissioner.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Deputy Tax Commissioner and Tax Investigator | SPR | CCS | 1 | EFU |
| Deputy Auditor | SPR | UCS | 1 | EFU |
| Administrative Assistant Payroll Clerk | SPR | UCS | 1 | EFU |
| Payroll Administrator | SPR | CCS | 1 | EFU |
| Income Tax Specialist | C-23 | CCS | 1 | UBU |
| Accounting Specialist | SPR | CCS | 1 | EFU |
| Tax Clerk (full-time) | C-21 | CCS | 1 | UBU |

SECTION 2: 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 these title changes reasonably reflect the duties of the position, and additional positions that were budgeted; WHEREFORE, This Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ___ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

ORDINANCE NO. 023-2026

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested by: Shaquille Alexander, Auditor
Prepared by: Tracy Wentz, Director of HR
Approved as to form: Brad Nicodemus, City Attorney bsn 03/10/2026