



**WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 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:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 2, 2026 Agenda & Regular Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes

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 Auditor Shaquille Alexander
- City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus
- Treasurer Trevel Balser
- Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands
- Director of Economic Development Jackie Russell

Director of Public Safety Van Gregg

Director of Neighborhoods Gerald Wright

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:

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2026

Authorizing and approving A PLAN of INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, DISTRIBUTION, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT, AND ONE OR MORE agency agreements with the whitehall community improvement CORPORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SECOND READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 049-2026

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 505.23 OF THE WHITEHALL CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT THE FEEDING OF DEER.

ORDINANCE NO. 050-2026

AMENDING SECTION 1111.10 OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY OF DRIVE-THRU FACILITIES BY REQUIRING BY-PASS LANES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE EGRESS IN THE CITY OF WHITEHALL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 051-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS AND THIRTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$27,750.37) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE BULLET PROOF VESTS (252) TO THE BULLET PROOF VESTS EXPENSE ACCOUNT (252.000.50000).

ORDINANCE NO. 052-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$45,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WMPITIE FUND (279) TO THE TIF FEES EXPENSE

ACCOUNT (279.000.59600).

ORDINANCE NO. 053-2026

AUTHORIZING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$700,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE SELF-FUNDED INSURANCE TRUST FUND (511) TO THE SELF-FUNDED INSURANCE TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (511.000.50000).

ORDINANCE NO. 054-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE REPAYMENT OF AN ADVANCE OF MONIES IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND 60/100 DOLLARS (\$61,228.60) FROM THE ENERGY PROJECT FUND (810) TO THE GENERAL FUND (101).

ORDINANCE NO. 055-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE ACCRUED BENEFIT RESERVE FUND (505); AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,000.00) TO THE ACCRUED BENEFIT RESERVE EXPENSE ACCOUNT 505.000.51000.

ORDINANCE NO. 056-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER OF 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. 057-2026

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE LEGAL ADVERTISING EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.950.58000).

ORDINANCE NO. 058-2026

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 059-2026

AMENDING ORDINANCE 129-2025; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO 161.38 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 060-2026

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY CONVEYANCE DOCUMENTS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FROM SHE BUYS HOUSES 365 LLC LOCATED AT 3791 EAST BROAD STREET, WHITEHALL, OHIO 43213 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 061-2026

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$320,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WMPITIE FUND (279) TO THE T&C TIF 90-116 EXPENSE ACCOUNT (279.000.50003).

RESOLUTION NO. 023-2026

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A GRANT ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO, FOR FUNDING AWARDED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES.

RESOLUTION NO. 025-2026

ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027 AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

RESOLUTION NO. 026-2026

RESOLVING TO APPROVE “THEN AND NOW” CERTIFICATES.

POLL PUBLIC:

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

POLL COUNCIL:

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

ADJOURN

City Council Meeting

June 2, 2026 Meeting minutes

President Potter ordered the Tuesday, June 2, 2026, agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Councilor Brown, who was expected to arrive before the 7:00 pm meeting start time.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: June 16, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

Whitehall City Council Meeting

June 2, 2026 Meeting minutes

Call to Order

President Potter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. He began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Clerk Ogg conducted a roll call

Present: Councilors Morrison, Harcar, Adkins, McCann, Dixon, Brown, Elmore, and Council President Potter.

Approval of Minutes

President Potter noted that three sets of minutes were before the body for approval: the May 12, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes, the May 19, 2026 Agenda and Regular Meeting Minutes, and the May 26, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 Committee Meeting, the May 19, 2026 Agenda and Regular Meeting, and the May 26, 2026 Committee Meeting was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion passed unanimously with all members voting yes.

Standing Committee Reports

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Elmore

Councilor Elmore reported that the Administration and Financial Management Committee met the prior week. She noted that several pieces of legislation appearing on the evening's agenda originated from that committee. Minutes are on file. The committee will meet again the following Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Harcar

Councilor Harcar reported that the Community and Elder Advocacy Committee met the prior week. She noted that there were no drafts or pending legislation before council that evening from her committee. The committee will meet again the following Tuesday sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson McCann

Councilor McCann reported that the Community Standards and Enforcement Committee met the prior Tuesday. Minutes are on file. He noted that two pieces of legislation were appearing before council that evening for title-only reading. The committee will meet again the following Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development – Chairperson Dixon

Councilor Dixon reported that the Economic Development Committee met the prior week. Minutes are on file. He noted that two pieces of legislation were before council for a vote that evening. The committee will meet in chambers the following week after 6:30 p.m.

Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services – Chairperson Brown

Councilor Brown reported that the Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services Committee met the prior week. Minutes are on file. The committee plans to meet again the following Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Chairperson Morrison

Councilor Morrison reported that the Public Safety Committee met the prior Tuesday. Minutes are on file. The committee will meet again the following Tuesday, sometime after 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Adkins

Councilor Adkins reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee met the prior week. Minutes are on file. The committee will meet the following Tuesday again at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Officials' Reports

Mayor Michael T. Bivens

Mayor Bivens opened his report by congratulating Whitehall Yearling High School on its successful 2026 commencement ceremony. He noted he was unable to obtain precise enrollment numbers in time for the meeting. Still, he believed it was one of the largest graduating classes in the school's history, with over \$2,000,000 in scholarships awarded to students pursuing secondary education. Mayor Bivens was particularly moved by the number of students who announced their commitment to military service, calling the event "a fantastic experience" and commending the school for the ceremony.

Mayor Bivens then announced that the city would be hosting its second annual "Fishing with Dads" event on June 20 at Big Walnut Creek. He noted that participation was open not only to fathers but to any father figure or supportive adult. Mayor Bivens shared that he personally scouted the creek that day and confirmed that the fish were biting, though he humorously reminded those present, "It is called fishing, not catching." He indicated that fishing gear and bait would be provided to young participants and expressed his commitment to preserving the tradition of "old school fishing" for future generations.

Mayor Bivens concluded his report with a story he characterized as an example of the exceptional community policing demonstrated by the Whitehall Division of Police. He recounted receiving an unexpected call from a friend regarding a traffic stop in which an officer encountered an individual who did not speak English. The officer utilized interpretive technology available through the division to communicate with the person, who had been driving without a license and was visibly distressed, fearing incarceration. Rather than impounding the vehicle, the officer de-escalated the situation and worked to resolve it in a manner that allowed the person to continue to work. Mayor Bivens stated he had already informed the officer's supervisors and the police chief, but he wished to make a public commendation, saying, "I would like to publicly commend Officer McKittrick for a job well done on that day." He closed with the observation that "people will always forget what you say to them, but they will always remember how you made them feel," noting that he had encountered the same individual in Mayor's Court earlier that day and observed that they were visibly grateful for that earlier experience.

City Auditor Shaquille Alexander

Auditor Alexander delivered a detailed financial report, noting at the outset his appreciation for the assistance of Clerk of Council Ogg in navigating some technical difficulties ahead of the meeting. He presented information in two parts: a written report based on financial health indicators from the State Auditor's Office, and a PowerPoint presentation summarizing income tax revenue trends and general fund balances.

On the written report, Auditor Alexander noted that the document was dense but available to the public upon request. In response to a question from a council member regarding the city's debt load, he explained that the city's debt service is funded from the general fund and characterized the overall debt load as "modest, all things considered," adding that "we're not going to default anytime soon."

Turning to the PowerPoint presentation, Auditor Alexander highlighted three key slides. The first illustrated income tax revenue trends from 2020 through the current year of 2026. He reported that income tax collections — which fund approximately 85 percent of the general fund budget — stood at just under \$14,000,000 as of May 31, 2024, but had grown significantly over the prior two years to over

\$15,000,000 annually. He noted current figures represent approximately a 26 percent increase over 2020 levels and attributed the growth to increased employment: "Jobs are going up."

The second slide provided a month-by-month breakdown of revenue collections, noting that April is typically an outlier due to tax filing season and that May 2026 collections totaled \$3,810,000. He called on residents to ensure they file their taxes and pay what they owe.

The third slide, which Auditor Alexander described as the most important, detailed the dramatic improvement in the city's general fund balance over recent years. He noted that at the end of 2023, the city's general fund could barely fund two months of payroll — approximately \$2,300,000. By the end of 2024, that figure had grown to \$5,700,000. In 2025, a Budget Stabilization Fund was created and funded with \$1,500,000 transferred from the general fund, growing further with interest. By year-end 2025, the general fund held approximately \$6,900,000, supplemented by the \$1,500,000 stabilization fund, for a combined operating capacity of approximately \$8,400,000. As of May 31, 2026, the general fund balance stood at \$7,200,000 with the stabilization fund at \$1,540,000, yielding a combined position of approximately \$8,740,000. Year-to-date in 2026, the city had collected \$16,900,000 and spent \$16,700,000, meaning the city is currently collecting more than it spends.

Auditor Alexander directly and forcefully addressed what he characterized as misleading narratives about the city's finances: "The framing of fiscal mismanagement, the framing of the city is broke, or the framing of any kind of misappropriation, mismanagement — I rebuke that, and then some. The city's in the best financial state it's been in in quite some time." He also briefly previewed a work-in-progress financial transparency dashboard intended to make fund balance and revenue data easily accessible to the public online, stating he hoped to have something available by the end of the month.

Councilor Brown asked, whether it sounded as though the city's economic health was "good," to which Auditor Alexander responded that while financial health was improving, the job was not yet done: "Job not done. A lot of work to be done."

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus

City Attorney Nicodemus reported that his office had been very active. He shared that, while still refining the data, the court team — including the domestic violence victim advocate — had been scheduled for approximately 5,395 different appearances so far in the current year. He acknowledged that not all appearances result in an actual hearing, noting that the figure encompasses plea offers, arraignments, and similar matters, but emphasized that it represents 5,395 instances in which his team had to review a case and prepare. He offered a commendation to the team for their extensive workload.

Treasurer Trevel Balser

Treasurer Balser was not present at the meeting.

Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands

Director Rowlands was not present at the meeting.

Director of Economic Development Jackie Russell

Director Russell reported that she had no formal report for the evening but indicated she was seeking favorable consideration for Ordinance No. 034-2026, Ordinance No. 048-2026, and Resolution No. 020-2026.

Director of Public Safety Van Gregg

Director Gregg was not present at the meeting.

Director of Neighborhoods Gerald Wright

Director Wright opened his report by thanking Mayor Bivens, city staff, and all community partners for their outstanding support in the planning and execution of the city's inaugural Memorial Day ceremony. He stated that the ceremony "really reflected the tone, the dignity, and the unity that the residents of

Whitehall expect" and expressed particular appreciation for the presence and support of council members.

Director Wright also noted that the Department of Neighborhoods continues to track resident needs as they relate to quality of life. He announced that as he approaches his first 100 days in the position at the end of the month, he would be sharing a brief reflection on what he has learned, what he has heard from residents, and where he envisions the Department of Neighborhoods heading to better serve the community.

President Thomas M. Potter

President Potter confirmed that no official reports had been filed in the council office since the last meeting.

Communications, Petitions, and Claims

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

Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 034-2026

Allowing a Special Permit Under 1125.04 to Allow Drive-Through Facilities on the Property Located at 4600 E. Broad Street, Parcel Numbers 090-008427-00 and 090-008249-00, Property Owned by Meyer Foods Management Company, and Declaring an Emergency.

President Potter opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 034-2026 at 7:27 p.m. and invited the applicants to come forward.

Applicant Presentation:

Rebecca Lanning, Landscape Site Designer with Mannik Smith Group, introduced herself and presented the proposal for a new quick-serve restaurant at the former Applebee's location at 4600 East Broad Street. She described herself as hopeful for council's approval, noting that even during her drive to the meeting she observed what a fitting location it would be for such a use.

Director of Economic Development Russell then provided a more detailed orientation for council's benefit, noting that this application was specifically for the allowance of the drive-through facility only, as the restaurant use itself is a by-right use under the zoning code. She described the site layout: the building's grand entrance faces the direction of the Capital One Discover branch, with the drive-through running along the Broad Street side adjacent to Northern Crossing. Customers enter from the rear, loop around the building, and reach a two-lane covered drive-through with a canopy. The two order lanes merge into one payment line and then split into two pull-forward parking stalls where food is delivered by runners. Director Russell noted that this carhop-style service model supports the restaurant's staffing of nearly 80 employees across shifts. She further explained that the site design's entrance configuration — off a private entrance drive rather than directly from Broad Street — is expected to eliminate or significantly limit vehicle stacking on East Broad Street. She reminded council that the Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of the application and added conditions requiring natural screening along Broad Street to shield residents at Northern Crossing from headlights.

Council Discussion:

Councilor McCann shared that he is a frequent patron of the Culver's in Marysville and spoke positively about the restaurant chain's operational layout and planning, stating they are "very well planned out." Councilor Dixon asked Ms. Lanning to clarify the meaning of "quick serve," noting his familiarity with the Culver's in Reynoldsburg. Ms. Lanning confirmed that the term is the company's preferred nomenclature and that the proposed location would include full dine-in capability. She noted this would

be Culver's "XL" format at approximately 4,700 square feet, which is one of their more standard building configurations. Director Russell clarified that dine-in parking and a patio with seating would be accessible from the east side of the building. Councilor Harcar asked about the number of parking spaces, and Ms. Lanning confirmed the site accommodates over 60 parking spaces. She also noted that the discussion was ongoing regarding possible shared parking arrangements with neighboring properties. The interior seating count was not immediately available, but Ms. Lanning offered to follow up.

Councilor Elmore expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of a new dining option on the site, noting that the project would bring approximately 80 jobs. Councilor Morrison asked Director Russell about the projected construction timeline. Director Russell indicated that while the original projection was 2027, she believed the developer was motivated to break ground as soon as entitlements were secured — potentially before the end of the current year.

Proponents:

Micole Spicer of Whitehall expressed enthusiastic support for the Culver's proposal, noting that the lot had been vacant for approximately a decade and that he was looking forward to being able to walk to the restaurant. He noted the Culver's ice cream as a particular draw.

Opponents:

No one came forward in opposition to the ordinance.

Correspondence:

Clerk of Council Ogg confirmed that no correspondence regarding this ordinance had been received in the council office.

President Potter closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Poll Public

President Potter opened the Poll Public period and invited members of the public who had signed in to address the council. Each speaker was allotted three minutes.

Alex Maggard, of Whitehall (Link Road): Mr. Maggard addressed the ongoing recall effort in the city, describing it as "the most important issue on a public ballot in Whitehall in 45 years." He stated he was not present to advocate for or against the recall but urged the members of the council, as community leaders, to clearly and publicly state their individual positions on each of the three recalls — whether they favor or oppose them, and why. He said, "You owe it to us as our leaders to tell us where we should be going as a city."

Verification of Copies

President Potter requested that Clerk Ogg call the roll to verify that each member of the council had received a copy of all items of legislation listed on the agenda prior to the meeting, including any add-on legislation.

All members confirmed receipt.

Motions to (Add) Change Rules of Council

Council President Potter noted that four proposed rule changes were before the body.

Item 1

The proposed rule read: No one on the dais should call out anyone in the audience, citizens or otherwise, in general, by name, in a criticizing/negative manner.

Motion to adopt Item 1 was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor McCann.

Discussion:

Councilor Harcar expressed concern that the language was vague and potentially overbroad, noting that reading an official document or citing facts and data could be construed as criticism depending on interpretation. She described this as "a slippery slope."

Councilor Elmore objected to the rule on broader grounds, arguing that the terms "criticizing" and "negative" are inherently subjective and that the rule, as written, would infringe upon council members' First Amendment rights by preventing them from freely expressing opinions on issues. She stated, "To try and silence council members so that they cannot give their opinion is, in my opinion, a violation of my rights."

Councilor Dixon defended the intent of the rule, clarifying that it was not intended to prevent any council member from saying what they want to say, but specifically to prevent council members from naming an audience member in a critical or negative manner during an official proceeding. He explained that because this is a political body, such public criticism could expose private citizens to scrutiny and political backlash in their personal lives. He stated: "This is not about stopping anyone from saying what they want to say. It's just stopping you from using their name... I think those folks in the audience should be protected in that way."

Councilor Harcar pressed further, asking whether the rule would prohibit the council president from identifying a disruptive audience member by name. Councilor Elmore agreed that the rule was subjective and cautioned about unintended consequences.

Councilor Brown noted that President Potter had previously addressed a disruptive individual without using that person's name — referring to him as "sir" — suggesting that such an approach could remain the standard.

City Attorney Nicodemus clarified that from a legal standpoint, he did not see a legal issue with a council member calling an audience member by name if that person had been speaking at a public meeting.

Councilor Dixon stated that the decision on what constitutes a violation of any rule ultimately rests with the council president.

Upon roll call, the motion carried 4-3 (Morrison – Yes; Harcar – No; Adkins – Yes; McCann – Yes; Dixon – Yes; Brown – No; Elmore – No). Item 1 was adopted.

Item 2

The proposed rule read: No campaigning/electioneering from the dais. This includes for or against campaign issues, other elected officials and/or candidates, and/or fawning praise for other elected officials.

Motion to adopt Item 2 was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor Adkins.

Discussion:

A concern was raised about the use of the phrase "fawning praise," characterizing it as heavily subjective and not a legal term.

Attorney Nicodemus offered relevant legal context for the prohibition on campaigning from the dais. He noted that while council members do not "clock in and out" like hourly employees, guidance from the State of Ohio — developed in the context of school boards and levy discussions — holds that elected officials, when participating in an official meeting for which they are being paid, do not retain a First Amendment right to advocate for or against a candidate or ballot issue. He stated clearly: "You cannot sit here on this dais and say, vote for or against an issue, a person, or a candidate." He distinguished that from statements of fact: council members may state what legislation they introduced or opposed, as those are factual and verifiable, but they may not offer promotional or directional commentary. He

described the line between permissible and impermissible as running between factual/verifiable statements and those that are opinion-based or promotional.

Councilor Harcar raised concern about whether the rule would prevent council members from speaking on resolutions — such as the three recall-related resolutions voted on the prior week — or from discussing their own accomplishments when asked. She argued that "if I speak or somebody else up here speaks on their accomplishments, does that get into campaigning?" Attorney Nicodemus clarified that discussing verified, factual accomplishments — such as specific legislation introduced — would be permissible, while offering an evaluative or promotional opinion of those accomplishments would not.

The discussion extended to the distinction between official capacity at a meeting and individual freedom of expression outside the meeting context. Attorney Nicodemus confirmed that after the meeting adjourns, council members may freely express their personal views on any issue, including the recall.

Councilor Dixon moved to amend the rule by replacing the word "fawning" with the word "promotional," stating: "I'm willing to amend it to say either overt promotional or just simply promotional, because that's what it's about — promoting people." The amendment was seconded by Councilor Adkins.

Councilor Elmore argued strongly against the rule in its entirety, characterizing it as an attempt to silence certain voices on the dais and noting that in her ten-plus years of experience with the council, discussion of levies and similar issues from the dais had never previously been restricted. She suggested the rule was being introduced specifically in response to recent commentary about the recall resolutions.

Councilor Brown offered the view that the rule was, in part, a matter of decorum, and generally agreed with what Attorney Nicodemus had outlined as already encompassed in state law.

Councilor Harcar argued that the timing of the rule change — after seven years during which Councilor Dixon could have introduced it — indicated its motivation was specific to recent events, including the recall and the community conversations held by some council members and the city auditor.

Councilor Brown echoed the concern that the rule appeared politically motivated and was part of a broader pattern of attempting to limit what certain council members could say publicly.

Upon roll call on the amendment to replace "fawning" with "promotional and the adoption," the motion failed 4-3 (Morrison – No; Harcar – No; Adkins – Yes; McCann – Yes; Dixon – Yes; Brown – No; Elmore – No). The amendment failed. Item 2 was not adopted.

Item 3

The proposed rule read: In the absence of both the President of Council and President Pro Tempore, the Council may appoint, from its members, a temporary chair or president of council.

Motion to adopt Item 3 was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor Morrison.

Discussion:

Councilor Harcar expressed opposition, noting that the succession order for the presiding officer had already been thoroughly discussed and agreed upon during the council's extensive rules review sessions in January and February. She argued that the rule was being introduced specifically because the current majority did not like the in-line successors under the existing framework. She stated she believed this was an effort "to keep particular persons from having that opportunity."

Councilor Brown echoed that assessment, calling the motivation "pretty obvious."

Councilor Elmore confirmed the existing succession order aligns with the standing committee chair structure: Administration and Financial Management (Chairperson Elmore), then Community and Elder Advocacy (Chairperson Harcar), then Community Standards and Enforcement (Chairperson McCann), Economic Development (Chairperson Dixon), Infrastructure Maintenance and Services (Chairperson Brown), Public Safety (Chairperson Morrison), and Parks and Recreation (Chairperson Adkins). She

noted the council had spent several hours, across multiple sessions, establishing this arrangement and characterized the proposed change as another attempt to shift procedural power away from certain members.

President Potter offered a clarifying observation, urging the body to consider the rule in terms of the standing committee order rather than personalities, noting: "This council will probably have a completely different makeup 10 years from now."

Upon roll call, the motion carried 4-3 (Morrison – Yes; Harcar – No; Adkins – Yes; McCann – Yes; Dixon – Yes; Brown – No; Elmore – No). Item 3 was adopted.

Item 4

The proposed rule read: Signs that are 8.5 x 11 inches or smaller may be held by attendees while seated as long as they do not obstruct the view of others. Signs larger than 8.5 x 11 inches may be displayed only by individuals standing in the back of the room or seated in the back row, so long as they do not obstruct access, visibility, or safety.

Motion to adopt Item 5 (signs policy) was made by Councilor Harcar and seconded by Councilor Elmore.

Discussion:

Councilor Harcar explained that this was an effort to amend a recently enacted rule that she found overly restrictive. She described a recent incident in which an individual with a small sign — no larger than a standard sheet of paper — was directed to stand in the back of the chambers for the entirety of a three-and-a-half-hour meeting if they wished to display the sign. She argued that requiring someone to stand for that duration, especially when chambers were not full, was "excessive." She further observed that signs had been brought into council chambers without incident throughout her two-and-a-half years on council, and that the current restriction was introduced only after signs began expressing views that a particular member of the dais found objectionable. She stated: "Only when they became negative towards a particular person did this rule get introduced."

Councilor McCann indicated that his original motivation for supporting sign restrictions had been a personal experience, prior to becoming a council member, in which a large sign held up in front of him blocked his view. He expressed openness to the proposed amendment, indicating he saw no objection to allowing smaller signs to be held in seated areas as long as they do not block others' views, and acknowledged he did not see a compelling reason to prevent individuals in the back of the room from sitting with larger signs rather than standing.

Councilor Morrison stated he remained philosophically opposed to signs of any size being brought into the chambers, as he believes signs inevitably lead to disruption. However, he acknowledged that the proposed compromise — permitting signs under certain conditions — was preferable to an unrestricted policy.

Councilor Brown argued that the sign policy, like the other rule changes proposed that evening, reflected an approach of only restricting expression when the content of that expression is disagreeable to a particular member of the dais, rather than applying a neutral standard. He observed: "If I like what the sign says, cool. If I don't, now we're going to introduce legislation that minimizes what people are allowed to do."

Councilor Elmore agreed that the rule was content-based, noting that when supporters of the FOP had brought signs to a prior meeting, no one raised any objections. She stated the pattern of introducing rules at times when certain forms of expression become politically inconvenient constituted "a violation of the freedom of expression."

Councilor Dixon stated that he had never brought a sign to a council meeting over many years of civic engagement because he believed it would be disruptive, and he did not do so even when he might have been justified. He argued that council has the right to establish rules of decorum for its chambers.

Upon roll call, the motion carried 5-2 (Morrison – No; Harcar – Yes; Adkins – Yes; McCann – Yes; Dixon – No; Brown – Yes; Elmore – Yes). Item 5 (Signs Policy) was adopted.

Third Reading

Ordinance No. 034-2026

Allowing a Special Permit Under 1125.04 to Allow Drive-Through Facilities on the Property Located at 4600 E. Broad Street, Parcel Numbers 090-008427-00 and 090-008249-00, Property Owned by Meyer Foods Management Company, and Declaring an Emergency.

President Potter presented Ordinance No. 034-2026 for its third reading and adoption. There was no additional discussion, as the matter had been thoroughly addressed during the earlier public hearing.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 034-2026 and move for its adoption was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor McCann. Upon roll call, the motion carried 7-0. Ordinance No. 034-2026 was adopted.

Second Reading

Resolution No. 019-2026

Authorizing and Approving a Plan of Industrial, Commercial, Distribution, and Research Development, and One or More Agency Agreements with the Whitehall Community Improvement Corporation and Declaring an Emergency.

Resolution No. 019-2026 was read by title only.

Councilor Morrison noted that he had previously requested a membership list for the Whitehall Community Improvement Corporation and reiterated that request, also asking that copies of the organization's bylaws be provided to all council members. Director Russell confirmed she would provide both.

First Reading

Ordinance No. 048-2026

An Ordinance Appropriating \$130,000.00 from Unappropriated Monies in the Plumbing Permits Fund (851) to the Plumbing Permits Expense Account (851.000.50000).

At the request of Councilor Adkins, who needed to leave for work, President Potter moved Ordinance No. 048-2026 ahead in the order of business.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 048-2026 and move for the suspension of all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. Upon roll call, the motion to suspend carried 7-0. Rules were suspended.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 048-2026 was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. Upon roll call, the motion carried 7-0. Ordinance No. 048-2026 was adopted.

President Potter excused Councilor Adkins from the remainder of the meeting.

Ordinance No. 045-2026

Authorizing and Approving a Fund Transfer of \$100,000.00 from the General Fund (101) to the Street Maintenance & Repair Fund (201) and Making a Supplemental Appropriation of \$100,000.00 from Unappropriated Monies in the Street Maintenance & Repair Fund (201) to the New Equipment Expense Account (201.000.53000).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 045-2026 and move for the suspension of all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Brown. Upon roll call, the motion to suspend carried 6-0. Rules were suspended.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 045-2026 was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Brown. Upon roll call, the motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 045-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 046-2026

Approving and Making a Fund Transfer of \$25,621.68 from Account Town & Country Incentive (279.000.50003) to the Debt Service Fund (401).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 046-2026 and move for the suspension of all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. Upon roll call, the motion to suspend carried 6-0. Rules were suspended.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 046-2026 was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. Upon roll call, the motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 046-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 047-2026

Approving a Fund Transfer of \$226,262.50 from the Police Department Tax Levy Fund (280) to the Debt Service Fund (401).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 047-2026 and move for the suspension of all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. Upon roll call, the motion to suspend carried 6-0. Rules were suspended.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 047-2026 was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. Upon roll call, the motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 047-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 049-2026

An Ordinance to Amend 505.23 of the Whitehall Codified Ordinances to Prohibit the Feeding of Deer. Ordinance No. 049-2026 was read by title only. No action was taken.

Ordinance No. 050-2026

Amending Section 1111.10 of the Planning and Zoning Code to Promote the Safety of Drive-Thru Facilities by Requiring By-Pass Lanes and Emergency Vehicle Egress in the City of Whitehall; and Declaring an Emergency.

Ordinance No. 050-2026 was read by title only. President Potter noted that the matter would be referred to the Planning Commission for its July 2, 2026 meeting, with a public hearing scheduled for July 7, 2026. No action was taken.

Resolution No. 020-2026

Authorizing and Approving the Mayor to Apply for and Accept a "Defense Community Infrastructure Program" Grant from the United States Department of Defense and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 020-2026 and move for the suspension of all rules was made by Councilor Brown and seconded by Councilor Morrison. Upon roll call, the motion to suspend carried 5-1 (Morrison – No; Harcar – Yes; McCann – Yes; Dixon – Yes; Brown – Yes; Elmore – Yes). Rules were suspended.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 020-2026 was made by Councilor Brown and seconded by Councilor Morrison.

Discussion:

Councilor Brown expressed enthusiastic support for the resolution, thanking the administration for its continued work in identifying and potentially securing millions of dollars in grant funding to invest in the city's infrastructure and other areas of need. Councilor Harcar echoed those sentiments, noting: "We hear complaints about our roads and our sidewalks, and this is how we get stuff done." Auditor Alexander, with President Potter's permission, briefly addressed the resolution from a financial perspective, stating that he believed it represented "a great opportunity for the city" and asked for the council's favorable consideration.

Upon roll call, the motion carried 5-1 (Morrison – abstained; Harcar – Yes; McCann – Yes; Dixon – Yes; Brown – Yes; Elmore – Yes). Resolution No. 020-2026 was adopted.

Resolution No. 021-2026

Resolving to Approve "Then and Now" Certificates.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 021-2026 and move for the suspension of all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor McCann. Upon roll call, the motion to suspend carried 6-0. Rules were suspended.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 021-2026 was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor McCann. Upon roll call, the motion carried 6-0. Resolution No. 021-2026 was adopted.

Resolution No. 022-2026

A Resolution Urging the Ohio General Assembly to Return Transparency to Economic Development.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 022-2026 and move for the suspension of all rules was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor Morrison. Upon roll call, the motion to suspend carried 6-0. Rules were suspended.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 022-2026 was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor Morrison.

Discussion:

Councilor Harcar, who had been absent from the prior agenda meeting, asked for clarification on whether the resolution was purely symbolic. President Potter confirmed that it was, explaining that the intent of Councilor Dixon was to transmit a formal letter to State Representative Humphreys. President Potter requested that any council member wishing to add their signature to the accompanying letter notify Clerk of Council Ogg by 5:00 p.m. the following day. Attorney Nicodemus offered a procedural clarification for the record, noting that the letter was a separate document from the resolution itself and would not be part of the legislative journal.

Upon roll call, the motion carried 6-0. Resolution No. 022-2026 was adopted.

Poll Public

Council President Potter opened the Poll Public period.

Diane Peters, Whitehall, Ward 1, drew a parallel between the ongoing recall effort in Whitehall and the 2024 Springfield, Ohio, controversy involving false rumors spread about the Haitian immigrant community, noting that in both cases, misinformation was repeated and amplified even after being repeatedly disproven. She urged council members to "squash the damn lie" and not allow divisive

falsehoods to persist. She then raised a separate, constructive suggestion: following a community email about an upcoming youth football camp, Ms. Peters proposed establishing a fund or mechanism by which residents without school-age children — like herself — could donate to support youth participation in programs they might otherwise not be able to afford. She stated: "We want to make sure all of our kids are taken care of."

Micole Spicer, of Whitehall, opened by congratulating Councilor Harcar, Councilor McCann, and Director Wright on the outstanding Memorial Day ceremony. She then expressed concern about the council rule changes adopted that evening, stating that she believed they were "trampling on First Amendment rights" and that restrictions beginning at the council level could trickle down to restrict what members of the public are able to say during Poll Public. She encouraged council members to develop thicker skin when it comes to criticism, stating, "You got to have thick skin in public office."

Keyon Washington spoke generally about the divisiveness he observed both on the dais and in the community, expressing frustration with what he characterized as arguing over individual words when the council should be focused on serving residents. He called the situation "nonsense" and urged all parties to seek resolution through conversation and direct engagement rather than recall proceedings and political conflict.

Community Date Board

Councilor Harcar announced that the Summer Kickoff Event would be held on June 5 at John Bishop Park and encouraged the public to attend. She also reminded residents of the Special Election on June 23 and noted that, as a result, the council committee meeting would be moved to Wednesday, June 24. She urged residents to make a plan to vote.

Auditor Alexander, with the council's permission, offered a community update celebrating the achievements of Whitehall Yearling High School's boys' track team. He reported that the team had won the Central Buckeye League championship and placed third as a team at the regional meet. They were regional champions in the 4 by 400 meter relay with a time of 3 minutes, 20 seconds, and 59 milliseconds. He listed several events in which athletes qualified for the state meet, including the high jump, long jump, 110-meter hurdles, 4 by 200-meter relay, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, and 4 by 400-meter relay. He also acknowledged the coaching staff, including former Whitehall standout Dassan Jefferson and alumni coach Kyle Jefferson, and highlighted Whitehall alumnus Andre Jackson, then competing at the University of Tennessee, whose team had qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in the 4 by 400 meter relay with a time of 3 minutes and 1 second. Auditor Alexander also responded to Ms. Peters' suggestion about supporting youth athletes, inviting her to follow up with him directly.

Poll Council

Councilor Morrison:

Councilor Morrison thanked all those who attended and those watching remotely, expressing genuine appreciation for public input and acknowledging that while council members are individuals with their own views, public comment influences their thinking. He stated: "We appreciate your decisions, your opinions, because that helps influence ours."

Councilor Harcar:

Councilor Harcar reiterated her thanks to Mayor Bivens, Councilor McCann, and Director Wright for the inaugural Memorial Day ceremony, describing it as deeply meaningful and moving. She expressed hope that the event would become an annual tradition. She also responded to Ms. Peters' comments about the Haitian community, agreeing that the false statements made at the national level were "extremely harmful and extremely dangerous," and affirmed that spreading unverified information — whether about elected officials or community members — is divisive and can contribute to real-world

violence. She spoke to her own record on council, noting her advocacy work in legislation, human trafficking awareness, and community advocacy days, and expressed her hope that residents would evaluate their representatives based on facts, evidence, and accomplishments.

Councilor McCann:

Councilor McCann thanked those present and watching remotely, and acknowledged Ms. Peters' proposal for a youth sports donation fund, expressing full support and a commitment to work on making it happen. He also noted that the council rules, as pointed out by President Potter, are ultimately subject to the council president's interpretation and discretion. He joined in the praise for the Memorial Day ceremony, calling it "spectacular," and expressed hope that he would continue to be involved in future years. He also agreed with the observation that multiple council members — not just one — are currently being targeted.

Councilor Dixon:

Councilor Dixon thanked all in attendance and those watching from home. He offered congratulations to the Whitehall Yearling Class of 2026, noting he graduated in the Class of 1980. He offered a personal commendation of Officer McKittrick, saying he had known the officer since childhood and that the behavior described by Mayor Bivens was entirely consistent with his character. He shared a personal anecdote about a police officer he observed conducting traffic enforcement near his home. He also stated that he agreed wholeheartedly with Councilor Harcar's remarks about the importance of truth and the divisive effects of spreading false information — though he offered this as an implicit point of contrast to what he described as inaccurate narratives circulating about him.

Councilor Brown:

Councilor Brown thanked those present and watching. He expressed enthusiasm about the scholarship achievements announced by Mayor Bivens and the prospect of the "Fishing with Dads" event, which he attended the previous year. He expressed his continued commitment to community engagement and support for youth. Councilor Brown also offered a pointed reflection on the evening's proceedings, challenging what he characterized as a pattern in which factual criticism of a council member's record is dismissed as a personal attack. He cited specific examples, including his own participation in a charter review process in which he proposed reducing the city residency requirement for civic engagement from two years to one year — a proposal, he noted, that was voted down by a self-described "champion of the people." He urged residents to continue getting involved and paying attention to the full record of actions taken by their representatives. President Potter cut off Councilor Brown's remarks at the allotted time.

Councilor Elmore:

Councilor Elmore celebrated the positive developments in Whitehall — the "Fishing with Dads" event, the administration's new programming initiatives, the spirit of community voluntarism reflected in Ms. Peters' suggestion, and the achievements of the Whitehall Yearling track team. She offered a philosophical observation from her mother: "Half-truth is worse than a lie," cautioning that running on a partial truth can lead to real harm. She urged residents to evaluate their representatives by their actions and their tangible contributions to the community. She also addressed the ongoing use of points of order, clarifying that under Robert's Rules of Order, a point of order is a procedural mechanism to correct a process — not a general opportunity to speak out of turn. She concluded by affirming her support for the individuals facing recall and noting her pride in the council's legislative record on matters affecting the health, safety, peace, and welfare of the city.

President Potter noted a point of order raised by Councilor Dixon following Councilor Elmore's closing statement, in which she had directed residents on how to vote in the June 23 special election. Attorney Nicodemus confirmed that he had, in fact, stated earlier in the meeting that council members may not direct constituents on how to vote from the official dais. President Potter acknowledged the observation and moved on.

President Potter:

President Potter thanked all who came to the meeting and those watching from home. He expressed appreciation to Rebecca Lanning for attending and presenting on the Culver's proposal, conveying the council's shared excitement about the project. He thanked Auditor Alexander for the detailed financial report and noted the specificity of the track team's times — acknowledging, with some humor, that this level of precision was entirely expected from "the numbers guy." He reiterated his appreciation to Mayor Bivens for sharing the story of Officer McKittrick, calling it "quite inspirational" and noting that it speaks to the character of the Whitehall Division of Police, as well as to the public safety teams serving neighboring communities.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Potter adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: June 16, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

City of Whitehall

City Council Committee Meeting

June 9, 2026 minutes

President Potter called the Whitehall City Council Committee Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present at the meeting were the following:

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

Director Casey Rowlands and Director Jackie Russell.

President Potter confirmed there were eight pieces of draft legislation on the agenda for the evening.

PRESENTATION: The Family of Megan Keleman

Ordinance No. 050-2026 — Megan's Way Out

Councilor Harcar introduced the presentation, noting that she had recently introduced Ordinance No. 050-2026 following documentation she received regarding a tragic incident. She welcomed the Keleman family and their family friend, who traveled from Stow, Ohio, to address the Council.

Kelly and Nick Keleman, parents of Megan Keleman, addressed the Council. They described how their daughter was killed on August 14, 2024, in a senseless act of violence while trapped in a single-lane drive-through in Stow, Ohio. Megan had called her father when the vehicle behind her initially struck her car. Nick Keleman advised her to stay in the car and wait for the police. The individual behind her — who was under the influence of alcohol and multiple medications — then repeatedly rammed her vehicle. Because there was no bypass lane, a high curb on one side, the restaurant building on the other, and cars ahead that were not moving, Megan had no means of escape. Nick Keleman stated he was on the phone with Megan throughout the entire ordeal and knew with certainty that a bypass lane would have allowed her to escape. He further noted that emergency medical responders were unable to reach her in time due to the enclosed nature of the drive-through configuration.

The family described Megan as warm, kind, and deeply committed to helping others. She had recently received her master's degree from Cleveland State University with honors and had been promoted at a nonprofit organization called ShelterCare in Kalamazoo, where she worked with at-risk youth.

The Kelemans presented the "Megan's Way Out" initiative, which calls for all drive-through facilities to include a bypass lane that accommodates both emergency vehicle access and patrons' ability to exit the lane in the event of an emergency or dangerous situation. They emphasized the initiative is not intended to be burdensome to existing businesses, but would apply to newly constructed drive-throughs and those undergoing major renovations. They noted the cities of Stow and Cuyahoga Falls had already adopted similar legislation. They cited a newly constructed Taco Bell in Stow and a new Dunkin' Donuts in Cuyahoga Falls as early examples of compliance. The Kelemans expressed hope that Whitehall's adoption would help build momentum for a statewide mandate, noting that Ohio Senate Bill 264 is currently before the legislature.

A family friend and advocate, Joan Bauer — a retired police officer of 36 years — also spoke, confirming that officers routinely avoid single-lane drive-throughs because they cannot exit if dispatched to a call. She noted that Senate Bill 264 includes flexibility provisions for situations involving small lots or limited space, allowing green space to serve as the bypass area provided no curb obstructs it.

Council members offered strong expressions of support. Councilor Harcar noted that she had already coordinated with Director Russell to ensure that a new Culver's facility coming to Whitehall would adhere to bypass lane standards, even prior to the legislation's passage. Multiple members of Council expressed their condolences and commended the family's courage. President Potter called the effort "the right thing to do for others." Councilor Harcar also noted that the Clerk of Council had offered to share the legislation and related materials with other Ohio municipalities.

Committee of the Whole Legislation/Issues

Draft #1 — Resolution No. 023-2026

Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into a Grant Acceptance Agreement on Behalf of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, for Funding Awarded through the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Deputy Chief of Police David Plesich presented this resolution, which pertains to the 2026 State OCJS Violent Crime Reduction Act grant. The total award is \$21,131.22, with approximately \$16,000 designated for overtime for two officers targeting gun violence and approximately \$5,000 for the purchase of a pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) advanced imaging camera recommended by a detective. Deputy Chief Plesich explained that the camera would be deployed in an unmarked vehicle in areas identified by the department's criminal analysis unit as hot spots for gun activity, and could be monitored in real time from the station or in the field. He noted that there is no local match required. In response to a question about competitiveness, Deputy Chief Plesich indicated the city had been essentially pre-selected as eligible and that receipt of the grant was highly assured. He also noted that a small oversight board — including himself and the City Attorney — was established as a condition of the grant.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 023-2026 will be made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The item was referred for adoption on June 16, 2026.

Draft #2 — Resolution No. 024-2026

Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into a Grant Acceptance Agreement on Behalf of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, for the 2026 Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program Grant.

This item was withdrawn by Deputy Chief David Plesich on June 9, 2026, prior to the meeting.

Draft #3 — Resolution No. 025-2026

Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Whitehall, Ohio, for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2027, and Submitting Same to the County Auditor.

President Potter noted that detailed budget figures were expected to be made available by City Auditor Alexander by Friday, as the Auditor had been waiting on final numbers from one department.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 025-2026 will be made by Councilor McCann and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The item was referred for adoption on July 7, 2026.

Council of the Whole — Open Meeting Reminder

Prior to the standing committees, Councilor Elmore raised a procedural matter, noting that following a recent voting meeting, three Council members were observed conversing after adjournment in a manner that could be perceived as a quorum gathering. Councilor Elmore stated she had consulted with the City Attorney on the matter and asked all members to remain mindful that the public continues to observe elected officials' conduct after meetings conclude, and that such gatherings can create the appearance of an unofficial meeting. Councilor Dixon sought clarification that a quorum constitutes a four, which was confirmed.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT — Chairperson Elmore

Members: Morrison, McCann, Brown

Committee opened at 7:07 PM.

Draft #4 — Ordinance No. 051-2026

Authorizing and Approving a Supplemental Appropriation of \$27,750.37 from Unappropriated Monies in the Bullet Proof Vests Fund (252) to the Bullet Proof Vests Expense Account (252.000.50000).

Councilor Morrison noted this type of appropriation is routine, as bulletproof vests have a defined lifespan and must be regularly replaced.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 051-2026 will be made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The item was referred for adoption on June 16, 2026.

Draft #5 — Ordinance No. 052-2026

Authorizing and Approving a Supplemental Appropriation of \$45,000.00 from Unappropriated Monies in the WMPITIE Fund (279) to the TIF Fees Expense Account (279.000.59600).

This appropriation covers TIF fee expenses owed to the Franklin County Auditor's Office following the posting of real estate tax revenues.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 052-2026 will be made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor McCann. The item was referred for adoption on June 16, 2026.

Draft #6 — Ordinance No. 053-2026

Authorizing and Making a Supplemental Appropriation of \$700,000.00 from Unappropriated Monies in the Self-Funded Insurance Trust Fund (511) to the Self-Funded Insurance Trust Fund Expense Account (511.000.50000).

Councilor Elmore noted this appropriation is necessary to cover employee health insurance claims incurred in 2026. President Potter noted that while such supplemental appropriations have been made in prior years, the specific amount varies depending on the nature and volume of claims, including unforeseen catastrophic events. In response to a question from Councilor Dixon regarding whether \$700,000 is a typical amount, President Potter acknowledged the figure varies year to year.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 053-2026 will be made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The item was referred for adoption on June 16, 2026.

Draft #7 — Ordinance No. 054-2026

Authorizing and Approving the Repayment of an Advance of Monies in the Amount of \$61,228.60 from the Energy Project Fund (810) to the General Fund (101).

This ordinance authorizes the repayment of a previously approved advance made pursuant to Ordinance No. 037-2026, which funded timely payment to the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority for public improvements on East Broad Street, pending receipt of corresponding property tax settlement monies from the Franklin County Auditor's Office. Those settlement monies have since been received.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 054-2026 will be made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. The item was referred for adoption on June 16, 2026.

Draft #8 — Resolution No. 026-2026

Resolving to Approve "Then and Now" Certificates.

Councilor Elmore noted this is a routine and recurring process required under O.R.C. 5705.41(D)(1). Councilor Dixon noted a question had arisen from reviewing the attached certificates regarding an item from Bodybuilder's Discount Outlet for a leg press machine with weights; it was clarified that this equipment was for the fire department to support required physical fitness for personnel.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 026-2026 will be made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The item was referred for adoption on June 16, 2026.

Councilor Brown took the opportunity to share a positive update from Auditor Alexander's financial health indicators report. He noted that between 2019 and 2023, the city had as many as four to eight indicators in a critical or cautionary outlook in any given year. Since 2024, only one indicator has appeared in those categories each year, and the single indicator that was in critical outlook in 2024 was reduced to a cautionary outlook in 2025, reflecting continued improvement in the city's financial standing.

Committee closed at 7:15 PM.

COMMUNITY AND ELDER ADVOCACY — Chairperson Harcar

Members: Adkins, Dixon, Brown

Committee opened at 7:15 PM.

No drafts or pending legislation. Councilor Harcar encouraged any members of the public or Council with questions about the Megan's Way Out legislation or the presentation from the Keleman family to reach out to her directly. Councilor Elmore also offered additional commendations for Councilor Harcar's work in bringing the legislation forward.

Committee closed at 7:16 PM.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT — Chairperson McCann

Members: Dixon, Elmore, Harcar

Committee opened at 7:16 PM.

Second Reading: Ordinance No. 049-2026

An Ordinance to Amend 505.23 of the Whitehall Codified Ordinances to Prohibit the Feeding of Deer.

No discussion.

Second Reading: Ordinance No. 050-2026

Amending Section 1111.10 of the Planning and Zoning Code to Promote the Safety of Drive-Thru Facilities by Requiring By-Pass Lanes and Emergency Vehicle Egress in the City of Whitehall; and Declaring an Emergency.

Planning Commission Meeting: July 2, 2026 | City Council Public Hearing: July 7, 2026

Councilor Harcar noted that coordination had already taken place proactively with Director Russell's team to ensure an incoming Culvers business would meet the bypass lane standards in advance of the legislation's formal passage. Council members expressed strong affirmation of this proactive approach.

Committee closed at 7:18 PM.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — Chairperson Dixon

Members: McCann, Morrison, Brown

Committee opened at 7:18 PM.

Third Reading: Resolution No. 019-2026

Authorizing and Approving a Plan of Industrial, Commercial, Distribution, and Research Development, and One or More Agency Agreements with the Whitehall Community Improvement Corporation and Declaring an Emergency.

Director Russell clarified that this resolution memorializes the original 1984 legislation establishing the Whitehall Community Improvement Corporation's operating authority. It does not add to or subtract from the powers the CIC currently exercises, but rather creates a formal, signed record acknowledging the city's agreement and the CIC's acceptance of those powers. The CIC's legal team at Frost Brown Todd encouraged this step to ensure proper audit trails and mutual accountability. Director Russell noted that supplemental documentation had been provided to Council following a prior request from Councilor Morrison, and members expressed appreciation for its thoroughness.

Separately, Councilor Dixon raised the broader topic of transparency in economic development in light of changes to the ORC resulting from House Bill 184. Director Russell acknowledged this is an active area of work. The options being evaluated include presentations by companies before Council, or voluntary waivers of the confidentiality protections afforded under the amended code section. Both approaches carry implementation challenges, including tracking of waivers and determining what questions the Council may permissibly ask. Director Russell noted that hoped-for legislative revisions were not included in recent state legislation, and that the CIC will continue working with the City Attorney to develop a practical transparency framework.

Committee closed at 7:24 PM.

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES — Chairperson Brown

Members: Morrison, Dixon, Adkins

Committee opened at 7:24 PM.

No drafts or pending legislation.

Councilor Brown announced that he is working with Public Service Director Rowlands on potential solutions to speeding concerns in the city and invited residents to contact their Council representative, Director Rowlands, or Councilor Brown directly with specific locations where speeding is a consistent problem, so that information can be compiled and used to develop effective infrastructure-based solutions.

Councilor Elmore asked for an update on the Yearling Road project. Director Rowlands reported that subcontractors are currently completing sidewalk work, progressing from south to north, and that milling and paving work is expected to resume the following week in the same direction. A progress meeting was scheduled for the following week, after which a full update would be provided to Council. In response to a question from Councilor Dixon, Director Rowlands confirmed that in areas where sidewalks were opened for new hydrants and service lines, concrete replacement was used rather than restoring the brick, which will reduce future buckling in those specific locations, though this does not apply to the entirety of the sidewalks.

Director Rowlands also announced that City Intern Curtis Nutter's application for an Active Transportation Grant through MORPC was successful. The award, estimated between \$50,000 and \$60,000, will fund consultant services directly — meaning MORPC will manage the RFP process and consultant selection on the city's behalf. The resulting comprehensive active transportation plan will help the city assess and address issues including speeding and traffic calming measures. Councilor

Brown emphasized that the city has invested over \$28,000,000 in infrastructure in recent years and expressed enthusiasm for the continued progress.

Councilor Elmore noted that speeding on Fairway Boulevard had previously generated resident complaints about damaged mailboxes, and that legislation addressing the issue, while initiated under her work, had appropriately been referred to the relevant committee — illustrating that such cross-committee coordination is a normal part of the process.

Committee closed at 7:32 PM.

PUBLIC SAFETY — Chairperson Morrison

Members: Elmore, Adkins, Harcar

Committee opened at 7:32 PM.

No drafts or pending legislation.

Councilor Morrison expressed appreciation to Councilor Harcar for Ordinance No. 050-2026 (Megan's Way Out) as a public safety measure and noted that the speeding-related discussion in the Infrastructure committee also bears on public safety. Councilor Harcar recognized the Clerk of Council for offering to distribute Megan's Way Out materials and the related legislation to all of Ohio municipalities.

Committee closed at 7:33 PM.

PARKS AND RECREATION — Chairperson Adkins

Members: Elmore, Harcar, McCann

Committee opened at 7:33 PM.

No drafts or pending legislation.

Councilor McCann inquired about the status of a football camp donation effort previously discussed by Auditor Alexander and others. It was noted that the Auditor had sent an email that day with instructions for interested parties to make donations, including how to make out checks. Councilor Harcar noted that the Clerk of Council, was present and available to receive donations.

Councilor Brown commended the Parks and Recreation Department and all involved for the recent Big Summer Kickoff event, describing it as well-attended, well-organized, and festive, with no public safety incidents. Councilor Harcar echoed those sentiments and recognized Local Matters for participating in what was their final food giveaway in conjunction with the event. She noted with concern that food resources in the community — including the United Methodist Church's longstanding food giveaway program — are being reduced due to funding constraints at organizations such as the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and anticipated that these pressures will increase through the summer. She suggested that the Director of Neighborhoods would be well-positioned to help address these emerging gaps.

Councilor Adkins announced that the Rising Kinder Care camp will be held at Kae Avenue Elementary from July 20–23, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, to help prepare children for kindergarten. Transportation is not provided.

Committee closed at 7:38 PM.

President Potter adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Submitted by:

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: June 16, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A PLAN OF INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, DISTRIBUTION, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT, AND ONE OR MORE AGENCY AGREEMENTS WITH THE WHITEHALL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Section 13 of Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution provides that, to create and preserve jobs and employment opportunities and to improve the economic welfare of the people of the State, it is in the public interest and a proper public purpose for a municipal corporation, its agencies or instrumentalities, or corporations not for profit designated by such municipal corporation as its agency or instrumentality, to perform the acts and exercise the powers therein provided; and

WHEREAS, the Whitehall Community Improvement Corporation (the "Corporation"), an Ohio corporation not for profit, has been formed pursuant to Chapter 1724 of the Ohio Revised Code (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, this Council, by its Resolution No. 13-84, adopted April 17, 1984, designated the Corporation as the agency for the City of Whitehall (the "City") for the industrial, commercial, distribution, and research development in the City; and

WHEREAS, Section 1724.10(B) of the Act permits any political subdivision that has designated a community improvement corporation as an agency to prepare a plan and to enter into one or more agreements by and between the political subdivision and community improvement corporation for the purposes set forth in the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Act, and specifically Section 1724.10B(1), permits the Corporation to prepare a plan for of industrial, commercial, distribution, and research development, or of reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization of vacant, abandoned, tax-foreclosed, or other real property, and which such plan shall be confirmed by the legislative authority of the political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the Act, and specifically Section 1724.10(B)(2), permits the City and the Corporation, as the designated agency of the City, to enter into an agreement to provide, among other things, authorization for the Cooperation to sell or to lease any real property or interests in real property owned by City determined from time to time by this Council not to be required by the City for its purposes, for uses determined by the this Council as those that will promote the welfare of the people of the City, stabilize the economy, provide employment, assist in the development of industrial, commercial, distribution, and research activities to the benefit of the people of the political subdivision, will provide additional opportunities for their gainful employment, or will promote the reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization of vacant, abandoned, tax-foreclosed, or other real property within the subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the Act, and specifically Section 1724.10(B)(3), permits the City and the Corporation, as the designated agency of the City, to enter into an agreement to provide, among other things, that the City will convey to the Corporation real property and interests in real property owned by the City and determined by this Council not to be required by the City for its purposes and that such conveyance of such real property or interests in real property will promote the welfare of the people of City, stabilize the economy, provide employment, assist in the development of industrial, commercial, distribution, and research activities to the benefit of the people of the City, provide additional opportunities for their gainful employment or will promote the reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization of vacant, abandoned, tax-foreclosed, or other real property in the subdivision, for the consideration and upon the terms established in the agreement, and further that as the agency for development or land reutilization Corporation may acquire from others additional real property or interests in real property, and any real property or interests in real property so conveyed by it for uses that will promote the welfare of the people of the City, stabilize the economy, provide employment, assist in the development of industrial, commercial, distribution, and research activities required for the people of the City and for their gainful employment or will promote the reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization of vacant, abandoned, tax-foreclosed, or other real property in the City; and

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WHEREAS, there are substantial and pressing problems including but not limited to the development and encouragement of industry, commerce, distribution and research within the confines of this City, which problems may best be solved by and with the assistance of the Corporation; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined to provide for the confirmation of the a plan and authorization and authority for the execution and delivery of one or more agreement between the City and the Corporation all as permitted and provided for in the Act;

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

SECTION 1. Plan of the Corporation. The Council hereby confirms the form of the Plan of Industrial, Commercial, Distribution, and Research Development of the Corporation (the "Plan") pursuant to Section 1724.10(B)(1) of the Act, in the form presently on file with the Clerk of Council, and conforming the terms and provisions of such Plan in all respects. The Mayor and City Auditor, for and in the name of this City, are hereby authorized to execute and deliver any documents or agreements necessary or appropriate to enter into and effectuate the Plan, including any document, agreement or instrument which includes an Agreement described and authorized by Section 2 of this Resolution, provided further that the approval of changes thereto by those officials, and their character as not being substantially adverse to the City, shall be evidenced conclusively by the execution thereof.

SECTION 2. Agreement Regarding Real Property. The form of Agreement by and between this City and the Corporation pursuant to Sections 1724.10(B)(2) and (3), in the form presently on file with the Clerk of Council, is hereby approved and authorized with changes therein not inconsistent with this Resolution and not substantially adverse to this City and which shall be approved by the Mayor and City Auditor, or each individually. The Mayor and City Auditor, for and in the name of this City, are hereby authorized to execute the Agreement, provided further that the approval of changes thereto by those officials, and their character as not being substantially adverse to the City, shall be evidenced conclusively by the execution thereof.

SECTION 3. Further Authorization. The Mayor and City Auditor, or each individually, are hereby authorized and directed to execute such other documents and to take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, the Plan, or any Agreement authorized herein.

SECTION 4. Open Meetings. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council and any of its committees concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council or any of its committees, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, all in compliance with the law including ORC Section 121.22.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or welfare of the City, and for the further reason that this resolution is required to be immediately effective in order to cause the development of the Incentive District and construct the public park and other public infrastructure improvements contemplated by this ordinance and agreements of the City; wherefore, this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2026

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested and Prepared by: Jackie Russell, Director of Economic Development
Approved as to form by: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney bsn 05/15/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 049-2026

ORDINANCE NO. 00-2026

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 505.23 OF THE WHITEHALL CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT THE FEEDING OF DEER.

WHEREAS, the City has observed that there is a significant and growing deer population; and

WHEREAS, the deer population in the City poses a hazard to motorists in the City, causes a reduction in plant life, and causes damage to landscaping installed by residents and commercial landowners of the City; and,

WHEREAS, the feeding of deer has been shown to increase the concentration of deer in the area of feeding, thereby increasing the likelihood of a) collisions between vehicles and deer, and b) damage to vegetation and landscaping in the area; and,

WHEREAS, the feeding of deer has been shown to encourage them to remain in urbanized areas and to become reliant on non-native food sources that may not be sustainable or healthy; and,

WHEREAS, Council finds that the adoption of an ordinance regulating the feeding of deer promotes the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City is necessary; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: That Section 505.23 of the Whitehall Codified Ordinances, titled "Feeding of Waterfowl Prohibited" is hereby amended as follows:

505.23 FEEDING OF WATERFOWL AND DEER PROHIBITED.

(a) Feeding Waterfowl Prohibited:

(1) No person shall purposely feed, ~~cause to be fed, or provide or make food available for consumption by~~ for domestic or migratory waterfowl on private or public property within the City. ~~of Whitehall and no person shall create or foster any condition, or allow any condition to exist or continue, which results in a congregation or congestion of domestic or migratory waterfowl in residential areas of the City of Whitehall.~~

(2) No person shall recklessly feed or make food available for consumption by domestic or migratory waterfowl on private or public property within the City.

(3) No person shall create or foster ~~anda~~ condition which results in a congregation of congestion of domestic or migratory waterfowl on private or public property within the City.

(b) Feeding Deer Prohibited:

(1) No person shall purposely feed or make food available for consumption by deer on private or public property within the City.

(2) No person shall recklessly feed or make food available for consumption by deer on private or public property within the City.

(c) Removal Required: Each property owner or person having control of the property shall have the duty to remove any device or materials placed on the owner's property in violation of this section. Alternatively, a property owner or person having control of the property may modify such a device or make other changes to the property that prevent waterfowl or deer from having access to the materials or feeding from the device.

(d) Exceptions to Prohibitions.

(1) The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to any health department employee, law enforcement officer, or state or federal game official acting within the scope of his or her official duties.

(2) The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to feeding waterfowl that is authorized and conducted by the City.

ORDINANCE NO. 049-2026

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The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to feeding deer that is authorized as part of a deer management program.

~~(a)~~(e) Definitions: For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

- (1) DOMESTIC WATERFOWL. Non-native ducks, geese, and swans, ~~and not~~ retained in agricultural operations.
- (2) FEED OR FEEDING. The act of or furnishing of food or other sustenance.
- (3) MIGRATORY WATERFOWL. Migration occurs, and waterfowl is considered to be migratory, when large portions of a bird species make regular annual movements between two or more places. Often, this migration occurs due to annual temperature changes, s which affect food resources and breeding opportunities.
- (4) NON-MIGRATORY WATERFOWL. Waterfowl that may fly large distances within a day, but return to a particular area by night. Such species can spend their entire lives in one area.
- (5) RESIDENT CANADA GEESE. Canada Geese that nest within the conterminous United States and/or Canada Geese, or domestic waterfowl on any public or private property within the boundaries of the City. Exceptions to this will only be granted through state and/or federal permitting processes.
- (6) FEEDING OR MAKING FOOD AVAILABLE. Feeding or making food available for consumption shall include the act of placing or permitting to be placed on the ground, or within five feet of the ground, any device or any fruits, grains, minerals, plants, salt licks, vegetables, seeds, nuts, hay, or any other edible materials that may reasonably be expected to result in consumption by migratory waterfowl or deer, unless such items are screened or otherwise protected from migratory waterfowl or deer consumption.
 - a) The presumption that the placement of any fruits, grains, minerals, plants, salt licks, vegetables, seeds, nuts, hay, or any other edible materials is for consumption by migratory waterfowl or deer shall not apply to the following:
 1. Naturally growing materials, including but not limited to fruit, grain, nuts, seeds, hay, and vegetables.
 2. Planted materials growing in gardens and lawns, as ornamental plants, or shrubs, standing crops.
 3. Residue from lawns, gardens, and other vegetable materials maintained as a compost or mulch pile.
 4. Unmodified, commercially purchased bird or squirrel feeders or their equivalent.

(f) Violations.

- (1) Any person who violates subsection (a)(1) or (b)(1) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense. For the second and subsequent violations of subsection (a)(1) or (b)(1), the violator shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (2) Any person who violates subsection (a)(2), (a)(3), or (b)(2), of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (3) Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.
- (4) It shall not be an element of the offense, and the prosecution shall be required to prove, that any food was actually consumed by a migratory waterfowl or deer.
- (5) In addition to filing criminal charges, the City may initiate a civil action in an appropriate court for injunctive and other relief for a violation of this section.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED this ___ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

ORDINANCE NO. 049-2026

ORDINANCE NO. 00-2026

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

Requested by: Councilwoman Lori Elmore
Prepared by: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney, bsn 05/21/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 050-2026

AMENDING SECTION 1111.10 OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY OF DRIVE-THRU FACILITIES BY REQUIRING BY-PASS LANES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE EGRESS IN THE CITY OF WHITEHALL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall seeks to provide clear standards for the development and regulation of drive-thru facilities; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall Zoning Code acts to promote the health and safety of Whitehall residents; AND

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall seeks to provide standards supporting the function of emergency medical services and traffic flow; AND

WHEREAS, Megan Keleman, a resident of Stow, Ohio, was killed in a murder-suicide involving being trapped in a drive-thru facility due to a single-lane, curbed drive-thru configuration; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: Section 1111.10 of the Codified Ordinances shall hereby be amended to read as the following.

1111.10 DRIVE-THRU STANDARDS.

(a) APPLICABILITY This ordinance shall apply to all newly constructed drive-through facilities and drive-through facilities undergoing structural alteration or site redevelopment requiring a zoning permit.

(a~~b~~) Drive-throughs are permitted only within specific zoning districts as specified in Article 1108 - Comprehensive Use Table.

(b~~c~~) All queuing vehicles shall be located on the lot on which the drive-through services are being provided and shall not interfere with the movement of vehicles or pedestrians on public rights-of-way.

(c~~d~~) All establishments with drive-throughs shall provide a minimum 10-foot by-pass lane whereby vehicles may exit the lot at any point without proceeding through the drive-through lane.

(1) Parking circulation area may contribute toward meeting this requirement, provided it is located adjacent to the drive-through lane.

(2) A by-pass lane shall include clear-visible signage to alert vehicle operators to the presence and direction of the by-pass lane.

(3) A by-pass lane shall provide adequate clearance for public safety vehicles.

(4) A by-pass lane shall be clear and unobstructed by curbs or barriers.

(d~~e~~) Menu boards may not flash or have any visible bulbs. All menu boards ~~must~~ shall be oriented toward the drive-through aisle that they are serving.

(e~~f~~) Drive-through speakers shall not be audible from adjacent properties. Drive-through speakers shall not emit outdoor music.

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 further reason that emergency vehicle egress is necessary for the policing and emergency medical services of the City of Whitehall; 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 by: Amy Harcar, City Councilperson
Prepared by: Jackie Russell, Economic Development Director & Curtis Nutter, Intern
Approved as to form: Kylie Keitch, Asst. City Attorney kk 5/26/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 051-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS AND THIRTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$27,750.37) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE BULLET PROOF VESTS (252) TO THE BULLET PROOF VESTS EXPENSE ACCOUNT (252.000.50000).

WHEREAS, additional monies are required in the Police Bullet Proof Vests Expense Account to cover expenditures related to the purchase of protective equipment; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Whitehall hereby authorizes and approves a supplemental appropriation from unappropriated monies in the Bullet Proof Vests (252) to the Bullet Proof Vests Expense Account (252.000.50000) in the amount of Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$27,750.37).

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

SECTION 3: 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: David Plesich, Esq., Deputy Chief of Police
Approved as to financial form: Shaquille Alexander, CPA, City Auditor
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney BSN 6/8/26

ORDINANCE NO. 052-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$45,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WMPITIE FUND (279) TO THE TIF FEES EXPENSE ACCOUNT (279.000.59600).

WHEREAS, The City of Whitehall has received and posted the real estate tax revenue from the Franklin County Auditor; and

WHEREAS, The City of Whitehall is required to record the related TIF Fee expenses paid to the Franklin County Auditor's Office; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, authorizes and approves a supplemental appropriation in the amount of forty-five and 00/100 dollars (\$45,000.00) from unappropriated monies in the WMPITIE Fund (279) to the TIF Fees Expense Account (279.000.59600)

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. 053-2026

AUTHORIZING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$700,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE SELF-FUNDED INSURANCE TRUST FUND (511) TO THE SELF-FUNDED INSURANCE TRUST FUND EXPENSE ACCOUNT (511.000.50000).

WHEREAS, the City has incurred employee health insurance claims in 2026; and

WHEREAS, it is advised by the Auditor that it will be necessary to use monies in the Self-Funded Insurance Trust Fund to ensure we have adequate monies to pay employee medical claims, 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 a supplemental appropriation from the Self-Funded Insurance Trust Fund (511) to the Self-Funded Insurance Trust Fund Expense Account (511.000.50000) in the amount of seven hundred thousand dollars and no/100 (\$700,000.00).

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. 054-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE REPAYMENT OF AN ADVANCE OF MONIES IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND 60/100 DOLLARS (\$61,228.60) FROM THE ENERGY PROJECT FUND (810) TO THE GENERAL FUND (101).

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 037-2026, the Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, authorized and approved an advance of unappropriated monies in the amount of sixty-one thousand two hundred twenty-eight and 60/100 dollars (\$61,228.60) from the General Fund (101) to the Energy Project Fund (810) to enable timely payment to the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority pending the City's receipt of the corresponding property tax settlement monies from the Franklin County Auditor's Office; and

WHEREAS, said advance was authorized with the express provision that it be repaid in full to the General Fund upon the City's receipt of the corresponding property tax settlement monies from the Franklin County Auditor's Office; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall has since received the corresponding property tax settlement monies from the Franklin County Auditor's Office into the Energy Project Fund (810); and

WHEREAS, it is now appropriate and necessary to repay the advance in full from the Energy Project Fund (810) to the General Fund (101); NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, hereby authorizes and approves the repayment in full of the advance authorized by Ordinance 037-2026, in the amount of sixty-one thousand two hundred twenty-eight and 60/100 dollars (\$61,228.60), from the Energy Project Fund (810) to the General Fund (101).

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. 055-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE ACCRUED BENEFIT RESERVE FUND (505); AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,000.00) TO THE ACCRUED BENEFIT RESERVE EXPENSE ACCOUNT 505.000.51000.

WHEREAS, the Accrued Benefit Reserve Fund is used for employee payouts for the designated benefits that belong to the employee through their union contract or by codified ordinance upon separation of employment from the City of Whitehall, and

WHEREAS, the fund balance is currently low and requires additional funding; 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 a fund transfer in the amount thirty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$30,000.00) from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Accrued Benefit Reserve Fund (505) and approves a supplemental appropriation in the amount of thirty thousand and 00/00 dollars (\$30,000.00) to the Accrued Benefit Reserve Fund Expense Account (505.000.51000),

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. 056-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER OF 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 Parks & Recreation Department were approved to purchase multiple replacement vehicles, which must be outfitted with specific equipment to make them fully functional; and

WHEREAS, monies are needed for the current and future maintenance of the fleet for the Service, Parks & Recreation, and Police Departments; and

WHEREAS, the Fleet Reserve & Maintenance Fund is funded throughout the fiscal year via monthly transfers from the general fund; and

WHEREAS, monies are needed in the second quarter of 2026 to purchase & repair vehicles; NOW THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: Making and approving a fund transfer 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

ORDINANCE NO. 057-2026

APPROVING AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE LEGAL ADVERTISING EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.950.58000).

WHEREAS, the annual appropriation ordinance did not allocate sufficient funds for required legal notifications, which are necessary to meet the City's statutory obligation to provide public notice; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in the amount of five thousand and no/100 (\$5,000.00) from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Legal Advertising Expense Account (101.950.58000).

SECTION 2: 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 by: Julie Ogg, Clerk of Council
Prepared by: Shaquille Alexander, CPA, City Auditor
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney BN 6/12/26

ORDINANCE NO. 058-2026

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 058-2026

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

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 BN 6/12/26

ORDINANCE NO. 059-2026

AMENDING ORDINANCE 129-2025; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO 161.38 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, efficient personnel and payroll record keeping requires a permanent definition of uniform published standards; and

WHEREAS, the current salary ordinance requires updating for the year 2026; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1:

161.38 SALARY SCHEDULE.

(a) The following salary ranges are hereby set, with pay to be determined by the respective appointing authority.

Clerk of Council (hourly)	2020	25.00 to 35.39
Office Assistant Part-time (hourly)	2020	11.00 to 22.57
Deputy Auditor (hourly)	2026	30.10 to 44.23
Deputy Tax Commissioner (hourly)	2026	to 48.08
Payroll Administrator (hourly)	2026	to 39.06
Accounting Specialist (hourly)	<u>2026</u>	to 37.02 <u>38.46</u>
Payroll Clerk (hourly)	2026	to 36.00
Administrative Assistant (hourly)	<u>2026</u>	to 36.00
Director of Public Service (hourly)	2025	to 55.57
Administrative Assistant (hourly)	2024	to 36.00
Code Enforcement Officer (hourly)	2024	to 36.00
Chief Building Official (hourly)	2026	to 52.61
Assistant Building Inspector Part-time (hourly)	2020	to 30.00
Director for Public Safety (salary)	2026	to 54,900.00
Assistant City Attorney/Prosecutor (salary)	2026	to 89,000.00
Assistant City Attorney, Part-time (salary)	2023	to 75,000.00
Prosecutor (Part-Time)* (salary)	2024	to 123,600.00
Legal Assistant (hourly)	2026	to 39.90
Parks and Recreation Director (hourly)	2026	to 57.69
Police Deputy Chiefs (hourly)	2026	to 82.14
Assistant Fire Chief (hourly)	2026	to 82.14
Chief of Police (hourly)	2026	to 92.81
Chief of Fire (hourly)	2026	to 92.81
Crime Analyst Supervisor	2026	to 43.82
Coordinator of Victim Services (hourly)	2020	21.00 to 33.89
Property Room Coordinator (hourly)	2026	to 27.86
Property Room Clerk (hourly)	2026	to 27.86
Crime Analyst (hourly)	2026	23.04 to <u>35.93</u>
Human Resources Director (hourly)	2026	38.53 to 49.28
HR Generalist (hourly)	2026	28.00 to 33.17

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Director of Development (hourly)	2022	to 55.00
Deputy Director of Public Affairs (hourly)	2023	to 42.79
Director of Information Technology (hourly)	2026	to 54.33
Systems Administrator (hourly)	2024	to 44.00
Senior Administrative Assistant (hourly)	2026	to 40.37
Executive Assistant to the Mayor (hourly)	2026	to 40.87
Clerk of Courts (hourly)	2026	to 41.20
Paralegal (hourly)	2026	20.00 to 33.65
Recreation Superintendent (hourly)	2023	to 38.25
Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer (hourly)	2026	to 32.53
IT Security Specialist	2026	to 38.20
Full-Time IT Technician (hourly)	2024	to 37.09
Grants Administrator (hourly)	2025	to 46.34
Records Clerk Part-time (hourly)	2026	to 28.96
Economic Development Specialist (hourly)	2026	to 36.59
City Planner (hourly)	2026	to 33.17
Adult Resource & Engagement Specialist	2026	to 27.89
P&R Program Supervisor (hourly)	2025	to 34.06
Recreation Manager (full-time)	2026	22.00 – 27.00
Program Assistant (part-time)	2024	15.00 – 25.00
Assistant Clerk of Courts	2026	to 34.13
Communication and Marketing Specialist	2026	to 33.65
Police Community Coordinator	2026	to 26.25
Director of Neighborhoods	2026	to 44.23
Events and Advancement Coordinator	2026	to 29.33
Service Maintenance Custodian	2026	to 26.44
Police Custodian	2026	to 26.44

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; 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 by: Shaquille Alexander, Auditor
 Prepared by: Tracy Wentz, Director of HR
 Approved as to form: Brad Nicodemus, City Attorney bn 6/12/26

ORDINANCE NO. 060-2026

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY CONVEYANCE DOCUMENTS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FROM SHE BUYS HOUSES 365 LLC LOCATED AT 3791 EAST BROAD STREET, WHITEHALL, OHIO 43213 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall (the "City") has been negotiating with property owner She Buys Houses 365 LLC (the "Property Owner") for the purchase of her property located at 3791 East Broad Street, Whitehall, Ohio, 43213 (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the City entered into a Purchase Sale Agreement with the Property Owner for the purchase of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Property Owner participated in good faith discussion and have come to mutually agreeable terms for the acquisition of the Property for the sum of \$320,000.00; and

WHEREAS, this property acquisition will position the City to attract and support the development of new commercial use(s), as well as strengthen the local tax base, provide opportunities for economic growth, and support the continued revitalization of the Broad Street District (BRD); and

WHEREAS, the City desires to execute necessary conveyance documents to complete the transaction between the City and the Property Owner; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Whitehall, Franklin County, State of Ohio, of the elected members concurring that:

SECTION 1: The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all necessary conveyance documents to acquire the Property for \$320,000.00, said Property with a physical address of 3791 East Broad Street, Whitehall, Ohio, 43213, and identified as Franklin County Parcel No. 090-005108-00.

SECTION 2: Council further hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor, Economic Development Director, City Attorney, Director of Finance, Clerk of Council, or other appropriate officers of the City to take any other actions as may be appropriate to implement this Ordinance without further legislation being required.

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 agreements must be signed; 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 by: Jackie Russell, Director of Economic Development 06/13/2026

Prepared by: Lara Jones, Economic Development Specialist 06/12/2026

Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney *bsn* 6/16/2026

ORDINANCE 061-2026

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$320,000.00) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE WMPITIE FUND (279) TO THE T&C TIF 90-116 EXPENSE ACCOUNT (279.000.50003).

WHEREAS, the current appropriation to account 279.000.50003 for One Million Eight Hundred Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Two and 40/100 Dollars (\$1,811,602.40) has an unencumbered balance of Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Two and 06/100 Dollars (\$49,982.06) as of June 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, as of June 12, 2026, the WMPITIE Fund (279) held a cash balance of more than Nine Million Nine Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$9,900,000.00), of which unappropriated monies of more than Three Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,700,000.00) are available for appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Director endeavors to continue bringing new businesses and jobs to the City of Whitehall, improve infrastructure, and reduce vacant and blighted property in the City; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds that a supplemental appropriation of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$320,000.00) is necessary to 279.000.50003; NOW, THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1: That the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$320,000.00) is hereby appropriated from unappropriated monies in the WMPITIE Fund (279) to the T&C TIF 90-116 expense account (279.000.50003).

SECTION 2: That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of the City for these funds for the purposes of the appropriation made in Section 1.

SECTION 3: 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 by: Jackie Russell, Economic Development Director
Prepared by: Shaquille Alexander, CPA, City Auditor
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney bn 6/15/26

RESOLUTION NO. 023 -2026

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A GRANT ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO, FOR FUNDING AWARDED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall, Ohio, is committed to enhancing public safety and reducing violent crime within the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehall has been awarded grant funding through the Office of Criminal Justice Services for Twenty-One Thousand One Hundred Thirty-One and 22/100 Dollars (\$21,131.22) to support the implementation of evidence-based violent crime reduction strategies; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used to increase police manpower presence and to acquire technologically advanced evidence-collection hardware; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of this grant requires the City of Whitehall to comply with all applicable terms and conditions; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents to apply for, receive, accept, and administer the grant funds on behalf of the City of Whitehall, Ohio.

SECTION 2: The funds received shall be used exclusively for the purchase of an advanced imaging system and for personnel costs for officers assigned to a Task Force within the Whitehall Division of Police.

SECTION 3: This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 025-2026

ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027 AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Auditor have prepared a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, said budget has been made conveniently available for the public inspection for at least ten (10) days by having two (2) copies thereof on file in the Office of the Auditor; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, has held a public hearing on said budget on July 7, 2026, and the Mayor has given notice by publication according to law; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: That the budget of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027, submitted by the Mayor and the City Auditor to this Council, be and is hereby adopted as the Tax Budget of the City of Whitehall for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027.

SECTION 2: That the Clerk of this Council be and is authorized and directed to certify a copy of said budget and a copy of this Resolution and to transmit the same to the Auditor of Franklin County, Ohio, on or before July 20, 2026.

SECTION 3: This resolution 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. 026-2026

RESOLVING TO APPROVE "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATES.

WHEREAS, O.R.C. 5705.41(D)(1) states that "then and now" certificates of three thousand dollars and no/100 (\$3,000.00) and more must be approved by resolution or ordinance within thirty days of receipt of the "then and now" certificates; and

WHEREAS, the City has processed the attached "then and now" certificates over the sum of three thousand dollars, and now these certificates require approval by City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, has determined that, at the time of the making and execution of the certificates, a sufficient sum was appropriated by Council for the purpose of the requisition, and is currently deposited in the treasury and allocated to the appropriate account and free from any previous encumbrances; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: That the City Council does hereby approve the attached "then and now" certificates:

SECTION 2: That the City Council of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, lawfully appropriated the expenditure, which the expense originated.

SECTION 3: That 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

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor