



WHITEHALL CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 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:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 16, 2026 Agenda & Regular Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2026 Emergency Special Meeting Minutes
June 24, 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 - Vacant

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:

PUBLIC HEARING:

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.

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.

POLL PUBLIC:

VERIFICATION OF COPIES:

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

THIRD READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 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.

SECOND READING:

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.

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.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 062-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHT AND 24/100 DOLLARS (\$5,308.24) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.970.56800) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 063-2026

APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN AND 88/100 DOLLARS (\$40,715.88) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE SEWER UTILITY FUND (840) TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND (401).

RESOLUTION NO. 027-2026

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A GRANT ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO FOR THE PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL OF OHIO (PEP) GRANT.

RESOLUTION NO. 028-2026

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A GRANT ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO FOR THE 2025 BJA JAG LOCAL ALLOCATION GRANT.

RESOLUTION NO. 029-2026

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.

POLL PUBLIC:

COMMUNITY DATE BOARD:

POLL COUNCIL:

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

ADJOURN

City Council Meeting

June 16, 2026 Meeting minutes

President Potter ordered the Tuesday, June 16, 2026, agenda meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present except Councilor Brown.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: July 7, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

City Council Meeting

June 16, 2026 Meeting minutes

Call to Order

President Potter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. He began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Councilor Amy Harcar, Councilor Mike Adkins, Councilor Brian McCann, Councilor Gerald Dixon, Councilor Lori Elmore, Councilor Larry Morrison, President Thomas Potter

Absent: Councilor Devin Brown (excused)

Motion to excuse the absent member was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 2, 2026 Agenda & Regular Meeting and the June 9, 2026 Committee Meeting were presented for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0.

Standing Committee Reports

Administration and Financial Management – Chairperson Elmore

Councilor Elmore reported that the Administration and Financial Management Committee met the prior week, that several pieces of legislation appear on the evening's agenda, that minutes are on file, and that the committee will meet again the following Tuesday.

Community and Elder Advocacy – Chairperson Harcar

Councilor Harcar reported that the Community and Elder Advocacy Committee met the prior week, that no drafts or pending legislation are before council this evening, and that due to the special election on June 23rd the committee will meet on Wednesday of the following week rather than Tuesday.

Community Standards and Enforcement – Chairperson McCann

Councilor McCann reported that the Community Standards and Enforcement Committee met the prior Tuesday, that minutes are on file, that two pieces of legislation appear for second reading (title only) this evening, and that the committee will likewise meet the following Wednesday due to the election.

Economic Development – Chairperson Dixon

Councilor Dixon reported that the Economic Development Committee met the prior week, that minutes are on file, that one piece of legislation is up for adoption this evening, and that the committee will meet the following Wednesday after 6:30 p.m. in these chambers.

Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services – Chairperson Brown

In the absence of Chairperson Brown, Councilor Morrison reported on behalf of the Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Services Committee, noting that the committee met the prior week, that minutes are on file, and that the committee will meet the following Wednesday after 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Chairperson Morrison

Councilor Morrison reported that the Public Safety Committee also met the prior week, that minutes are on file, and that the committee will meet the following Wednesday after 6:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation – Chairperson Adkins

Councilor Adkins reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee met the prior week, that no drafts or pending legislation are before council this evening, and that the committee will meet the following Wednesday after 6:30 p.m.

Officials' Reports

Mayor Michael T. Bivens

Mayor Bivens delivered several significant announcements. First, he recognized Director of Franklin County's Office of Justice Policy and Programs, Chief Pride, and announced that the City of Whitehall—in partnership with the Ohio Department of Youth Services and Franklin County—will be awarded \$200,000 for youth services programming. The funds will flow through the City's Office on Neighborhoods and are intended to provide wraparound services for justice-involved youth in Whitehall.

Second, Mayor Bivens announced that the City has been awarded a \$1,000,000 federal Department of Transportation grant for new sidewalk construction. He noted that the administration intends to engage council members and the community—through the Department of Neighborhoods—in determining where the new sidewalks will be built, rather than designating locations unilaterally. Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands noted for context that the full cost of all needed sidewalks city-wide is estimated at approximately \$50,000,000.

Third, Mayor Bivens noted that a new Habitat for Humanity home was recently dedicated, which Councilor Elmore attended.

Finally, Mayor Bivens announced the Second Annual Father's Day Fishing event, to be held Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. at Whitehall Community Park, with fishing in Big Walnut Creek. Donated fishing poles from Field & Stream will be available, and the public is invited to donate additional poles. Mayor Bivens also highlighted the cookout and Juneteenth celebration to be held at John Bishop Park on June 19th, noting that Juneteenth is a federal holiday and that City offices will be closed the preceding Friday.

City Auditor Shaquille Alexander

City Auditor Alexander was not present. A statement was read on his behalf by Director Rowlands. The statement extended congratulations to Whitehall Yearlings athletes Lathan Western, Corey Jackson, and Nate Stinson for placing sixth in the 4x200 meter relay at the Division II Ohio State Championship track meet, and to Western individually for placing seventh in the 400-meter dash. Additionally, congratulations were extended to Whitehall Yearlings alumnus Andre Jackson and his University of Tennessee teammates, who placed seventh at the NCAA Outdoor Track Championships and set a school record of 3:00.74 in the relay. Jackson was also named a First Team All-American. The auditor's statement also expressed gratitude to Diane Peters, Larry Morrison, and Amy Harcar for financial contributions in support of youth sports. The general fund was reported to stand at \$7,100,000 on a cash basis, approximately \$200,000 above the same point in the prior year.

City Attorney Bradley S. Nicodemus

City Attorney Nicodemus addressed several legal questions that had been raised by council members. Regarding the evening's stricken presentations, he reiterated his earlier explanation concerning the prohibition on using council meeting resources for recall election advocacy, and clarified that while council itself cannot advocate from the dais, members of the public may speak for or against a recall or election during Poll Public, as council's open public comment period creates a limited public forum and content-based restrictions are impermissible.

Regarding executive session confidentiality, Attorney Nicodemus explained that executive sessions are not inherently confidential, with key exceptions: sessions conducted for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel are protected by attorney-client privilege, and information or documents shared in executive session that are independently designated as confidential under state or federal law cannot be disclosed. He gave the example of economic development incentive discussions currently governed by House Bill 184, which carry a statutory confidentiality requirement. Absent such a legal protection or contractual non-disclosure agreement, participants in an executive session are generally free to share the substance of what was discussed, though the collegial expectation of discretion typically governs in practice. Councilor Elmore engaged Attorney Nicodemus on the application of Ohio Revised Code Section 102.03(b) to this analysis.

On the topic of campaign contributions and conflicts of interest, Attorney Nicodemus reminded council members that each is individually responsible for determining whether a financial interest in pending legislation or a contract requires abstention, and that a member who abstains should fully remove themselves from related discussions. He quoted from the Ohio Ethics Law, noting that ordinary campaign contributions are not prohibited even where a nexus exists between the official and the contributor, unless there is evidence of wrongdoing under ORC 102.03(g). He further advised that under the City's home rule authority, council may consider adopting a local campaign contribution limits ordinance—as cities including Cincinnati, Columbus, Dublin, and Akron have done—if council believes contribution levels may unduly influence elected officials.

Treasurer Trevel Balse

Treasurer Trevel Balse was not present and did not file a report.

Director of Public Service Casey Rowlands

Director Rowlands reported that paving of Yearling Road is expected to be fully complete by the end of the following day, with striping to follow the subsequent week. Following completion of the Yearling Road project, the street program will move to resurfacing and curb work on Doney Street, with a preconstruction meeting scheduled for the following day. Director Rowlands provided broader context, estimating the total cost of all needed infrastructure improvements across roadways, water mains, sanitary, and storm systems at approximately \$580,000,000—a figure that excludes traffic signals, streetlights, bridges, and culverts. She framed this against the City's approximately \$40,000,000 annual operating budget, noting the scale of the challenge while affirming ongoing progress. Director Rowlands requested favorable consideration of Ordinance No. 056-2026 and Resolution No. 019-2026.

Director of Economic Development Jackie Russell

Director Russell reported on two areas. First, she provided an update on House Bill 479, the legislative fix to House Bill 184 governing economic development incentive discussions. The bill has been sent to the Governor and is awaiting signature; once signed, it will take effect after 90 days, during which the City will continue to operate under House Bill 184. She noted that the new bill's primary change is to prohibit disclosure of individualized payroll information while permitting discussion of aggregate payroll figures.

Director Russell then offered a broader update on the first year of the development department, which now consolidates building, zoning, planning, and economic development into a unified operation. Key metrics from the year include: over 1,300 building permits issued (compared to 1,075 for all of the prior year); over 142 inspections completed against 400 total for the prior year; and 81 business visits conducted at 76 different businesses, largely by staff members Laura Jones and Curtis Nutter. Director

Russell also noted that a strategic plan is underway but that community engagement has been lower than desired, and encouraged residents to participate—including at an upcoming open house at the food truck festival. She reported that the City has transitioned to fully electronic plan review and launched a webpage for the Fairway Boulevard overlay district. She closed by noting that the active economic development pipeline represents over \$100,000,000 in private investment and the potential creation of over 250 jobs. Director Russell requested favorable consideration of Resolution No. 019-2026 and Ordinance No. 061-2026.

Director of Public Safety Van Gregg

Director Gregg reported that the Fire and Police Departments continue to perform well and are engaged in ongoing training. Director Gregg expressed confidence in the leadership provided by Mayor Bivens and stated his view that the administration has chosen a path of cooperation, professionalism, and commitment to the City's best interests.

Director of Neighborhoods Gerald Wright

Director Wright expanded upon Mayor Bivens' announcement regarding the RECLAIM grant award. He provided operational context, noting that over the past four and a half years Whitehall has recorded more than 2,700 juvenile arrests, nearly a third of which involved felony cases, with some youth as young as ten or eleven years old. He also noted that a significant number of cases involve youth from outside Whitehall, specifically from Columbus. Director Wright stated that the \$200,000 award will allow the City to work with juvenile court and community partners such as FACES to develop a resource center focused on prevention, diversion, and family support services. He committed to keeping council updated as implementation details are received from the county. Councilor Elmore asked whether this is an extension of the existing juvenile diversion program; Director Wright confirmed it is.

President Thomas M. Potter

President Potter confirmed that no official reports have been filed in the Council Office since the last meeting.

Communications, Petitions, and Claims

President Potter announced that no communications, petitions, or claims have been filed in the Council Office since the last meeting.

Poll Public

President Potter opened the Poll Public and reminded speakers to sign in, state their name and city of residence, and keep their voices close to the microphone. Multiple residents and community members addressed the council. The following individuals spoke:

Micole Spicer (Whitehall resident) spoke in support of Mayor Bivens, Councilor Elmore, and Councilor Harcar, asserting that the recall effort has not been supported by factual evidence and urging voters to vote "yes" on June 23rd to retain the officials subject to the recall.

Fred Everett (Whitehall resident), president of the Whitehall Area Chamber of Commerce, stated that Mayor Bivens has the full support of the Chamber, commending the Mayor for his engagement with business owners and his focus on the economic health of the business community. He called upon community members to participate in the democratic process and vote.

Diane Peters (Whitehall Ward 1 resident) addressed the council in place of her stricken presentation. She argued that recalls under the City Charter are reserved for serious misconduct—illegal, immoral, or unethical behavior—and should not be used as a tool for policy disagreement. She expressed concern that the recall, if successful, could set a precedent of political instability and discourage effective governance.

Amanda Waller (Whitehall resident) thanked the City for the summer kickoff event and offered a brief note that the emergency clause language in the WCIC legislation may contain language copied from a prior ordinance that does not appear applicable. She asked that council review it. She also encouraged residents to participate in the strategic planning process.

Tasha Simmons (Whitehall resident), chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, expressed support for Mayor Bivens and the current council, citing growth in economic development, medical resources, and the City's overall trajectory. She urged residents to consider the long-term impact of the recall on ongoing progress.

Asher (business owner in Whitehall, resident of Blacklick) reflected on his experience as a citizen who immigrated from Africa and values American democracy. He encouraged the community to give elected officials the opportunity to serve and to address concerns through dialogue rather than recall.

Wendy Wilson (a Columbus resident and Whitehall property owner on Robin Wood) spoke in support of Mayor Bivens, Councilor Elmore, and Councilor Harcar, arguing that community progress is built on results and responsible stewardship. She cautioned against what she characterized as manufactured outrage and deceptive materials being used to influence voters.

Joel Harcar (Whitehall resident, spouse of Councilor Amy Harcar) thanked the Mayor and council members for seeking elected office and for the work they have done, including removing unsafe buildings, repairing roads, and passing legislation to serve residents. He encouraged voters to vote "yes" on June 23rd.

Ebony Fades (Columbus resident, granddaughter of Whitehall residents) spoke about the legacy of leadership, arguing that the decisions made during the current period will shape the future of Whitehall for coming generations. She encouraged the community to stand for truth, accountability, and unity.

Reverend Derek Holmes (Columbus resident, senior pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church) addressed the council as a representative of congregants who are Whitehall residents. He expressed concern that the recall effort undermines the democratic process and the will of voters who elected the current officials. He urged that the energy directed toward the recall be redirected toward constructive civic engagement.

Nahari Luke (a Whitehall resident) expressed his intention to vote on June 23rd in support of retaining the officials subject to recall.

President Potter closed the Poll Public.

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.

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.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 019-2026 was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 5-1, with Councilor McCann voting no.

Second Reading

Ordinance No. 049-2026 (Title Only)

An ordinance to amend Section 505.23 of the Whitehall Codified Ordinances to prohibit the feeding of deer. Read by title only; no action taken.

Ordinance No. 050-2026 (Title Only)

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. Read by title only. Referred to the Planning Commission for the July 2, 2026 meeting; public hearing scheduled for July 7, 2026 in these chambers.

First Reading

Ordinance No. 051-2026

Authorizing and approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$27,750.37 from unappropriated monies in the Bullet Proof Vests Fund (252) to the Bullet Proof Vests Expense Account (252.000.50000).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 051-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 051-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 052-2026

Authorizing and approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$45,000.00 from unappropriated monies in the WMPITIE Fund (279) to the TIF Fees Expense Account (279.000.59600).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 052-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 052-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 053-2026

Authorizing and making a supplemental appropriation in the amount 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).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 053-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 053-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 054-2026

Authorizing and approving the repayment of an advance in the amount of \$61,228.60 from the Energy Project Fund (810) to the General Fund (101).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 054-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made

by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 054-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 055-2026

Authorizing and approving a fund transfer of \$30,000.00 from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Accrued Benefit Reserve Fund (505), and authorizing and approving a supplemental appropriation of \$30,000.00 to the Accrued Benefit Reserve Expense Account (505.000.51000).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 055-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 055-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 056-2026

Authorizing and approving a fund transfer of \$250,000.00 from previously unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Fleet Reserve & Maintenance Fund (313), and appropriating \$250,000.00 from the Fleet Reserve & Maintenance Fund (313) to the Fleet Reserve & Maintenance Expense Account (313.000.50000).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 056-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 056-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 057-2026

Approving and making a supplemental appropriation of \$5,000.00 from unappropriated monies in the General Fund (101) to the Legal Advertising Expense Account (101.950.58000).

During the discussion, Councilor Dixon requested clarification on the nature of this appropriation. Clerk Ogg explained that the legal advertising account had been nearly depleted—leaving only \$54.00—following the placement of an advertisement for the special election, and that the supplemental appropriation is necessary to restore the account so that it may be utilized for other purposes.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 057-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Morrison. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 057-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 058-2026

Authorizing and approving an amendment to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Whitehall, Section 161, Table of Authorized Personnel, for fiscal year 2026, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 058-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Dixon and seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 058-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 059-2026

Amending Ordinance 129-2025; authorizing and approving changes to Section 161.38 and declaring an emergency.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 059-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Dixon. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Dixon. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 059-2026 was adopted.

Ordinance No. 060-2026 (Title Only)

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. Read by title only; no action taken.

Ordinance No. 061-2026

An ordinance appropriating \$320,000.00 from unappropriated monies in the WMPITIE Fund (279) to the T&C TIF 90-116 Expense Account (279.000.50003).

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 061-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor McCann. The motion carried 6-0. Ordinance No. 061-2026 was adopted.

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.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 023-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The motion carried 6-0. Resolution No. 023-2026 was adopted.

Resolution No. 025-2026 (Title Only)

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. Read by title only; no action taken.

Resolution No. 026-2026

Resolving to approve "Then and Now" certificates.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 026-2026 and suspend all rules was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The motion carried 6-0. Motion to adopt was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The motion carried 6-0. Resolution No. 026-2026 was adopted.

Poll Public

President Potter opened the Poll Public. The following individuals spoke:

Diane Peters (Whitehall Ward 1 resident) expressed her appreciation for the City of Whitehall and its community, including the summer events and sporting activities. She reiterated her personal support for Mayor Bivens, Councilor Elmore, and Councilor Harcar and encouraged residents to vote "yes" on June 23rd.

Shirley Washington (Whitehall resident) spoke about her background in civic and political engagement spanning decades and several states, and expressed that she chose to move to Whitehall because of its sense of community. She stated that she is troubled by the current political climate and urged residents to carry others to the polls and vote "yes" to retain the officials subject to the recall.

President Potter closed the Poll Public.

Community Date Board

Councilor Harcar reminded attendees that the special election is scheduled for June 23rd and encouraged residents to vote early if they cannot be present on Election Day. She noted that, due to the election, the next regular council meeting will be moved to Wednesday, June 24th.

Poll Council

Councilor Harcar thanked all who spoke, noting that it takes courage to address the council publicly. She observed that recall petitioners who had previously been active in council chambers were absent from the evening's meeting. She summarized her motivations for having sought office—to help all Whitehall residents—and highlighted the work she has undertaken over her tenure in areas including public safety, neighborhood improvements, economic development, mental health and domestic violence awareness, services for older adults, and community inclusivity. She noted her advocacy for the City's inaugural Memorial Day event and her joint introduction with Councilor McCann of the Megan's Way Out legislation.

Councilor Adkins thanked all who spoke and noted he may attend the Father's Day Fishing event if he is in town.

Councilor McCann thanked all attendees and those watching remotely, and announced that the first Thursday of August will be the inaugural community conversation in his ward, to be held at New Life Church across from City Hall. He stated the event will be informal and open to any resident, not limited to those in his ward, and will be structured as a roundtable discussion. He intends to continue making announcements leading up to the event.

Councilor Dixon congratulated Director Russell on her one-year anniversary and recognized staff members Laura Jones and Curtis Nutter for their business outreach work. He offered remarks in response to those who spoke about the democratic process, noting that the same democratic process that elects officials also provides for the recall of officials. He wished residents a Happy Juneteenth and a Happy Pride.

Councilor Elmore thanked all speakers and those watching at home. She reflected on the themes of unity, stability, and leadership raised during public comment, and expressed concern that members of the community are hurting as a result of the current political climate. She reviewed her record of service to Whitehall residents, noting legislation she has introduced or championed, including source of income protections, apprenticeship program support, and the Franklin County Public Health Declaration affirming that racism is a public health crisis.

Councilor Morrison thanked all in attendance and those watching from home, noting the respectful conduct of the evening's audience.

President Potter congratulated Director Russell on her first year anniversary, expressing that her work—in partnership with the building department, Director Rowlands, and the Mayor's administration—has had a measurably positive impact on the City. He thanked the evening's public speakers and commended the audience for the respect and decorum that allowed meaningful dialogue to take place.

Adjourn

There being no further business, President Potter adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: July 7, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

City of Whitehall

Emergency Special Meeting

June 24, 2026 meeting minutes

Call to Order

The Emergency Special Meeting of the Whitehall City Council, called by Mayor Michael T. Bivens, was convened at 6:31 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, in the Council Chambers, Whitehall, Ohio. Council President Thomas Potter presided over the meeting.

Roll Call

President Potter called the meeting to order and directed the Clerk to conduct roll call.

Present: Councilor Mike Adkins, Councilor Brian McCann, Councilor Gerald Dixon, Councilor Lori Elmore, Councilor Larry Morrison, Councilor Amy Harcar, Council President Thomas Potter.

Absent: Councilor Devin Brown

A motion was made to excuse the absent member.

Motion to excuse the absent member was made by Councilor Elmore and seconded by Councilor Adkins. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously with all present members voting in favor.

Reason: For the Purpose of Addressing the Public Regarding the Recall Election

Council President Potter turned the floor over to Mayor Michael T. Bivens, who indicated that he would be reading from prepared remarks that would be entered into the record, provided to the Clerk of Council, and distributed via the city's social media platforms, given the significance of the matter. Mayor Bivens also indicated that Councilor Amy Harcar and Councilor Lori Elmore would each be given an opportunity to speak following his remarks.

Remarks by Mayor Michael T. Bivens

Mayor Bivens opened by expressing sincere gratitude to the residents of Whitehall for their participation in the recall election, stating, "Democracy works best when citizens are engaged," and thanking everyone who exercised their right to vote, regardless of how they voted. He expressed humility and honor at the voters' rejection of the recall effort, saying he was grateful for "the trust the voters have placed in me by rejecting this recall effort and allowing me to continue to serve as your mayor."

Mayor Bivens offered congratulations to Councilor Amy Harcar and extended thanks to Councilor Lori Elmore for her "service and dedication to the city of Whitehall." He noted that provisional ballots remained to be counted and that the administration would "respect the process and await the final certified results of all of our races."

Mayor Bivens then addressed the broader meaning of the moment. He stated plainly that "this recall was not normal," that it came at a cost, tested relationships, consumed time and attention, and "brought division and created false narratives about who we are as a city." Nevertheless, he noted that something remarkable had occurred: "the work of moving Whitehall forward never stopped." He paid particular tribute to city staff, who, he said, continued throughout the ordeal to advance infrastructure and development projects, strengthen economic opportunities, improve neighborhoods, support families through the Department of Neighborhoods, and serve residents "with professionalism, dedication, and resilience." He offered his personal thanks to city employees present in the chamber, saying, "Through all the noise, they remained focused on serving our residents and delivering results."

Mayor Bivens then interpreted the election results as an affirmative message from the community: "The people said yes to progress." He described the vote as an endorsement of fiscal responsibility, strong partnerships with students and businesses, inclusion and pluralism, economic opportunity, social justice, racial harmony, and environmental stewardship. "They said yes to the values that remind us that every resident, every visitor, and every business deserves the very best this city can provide," he stated.

The Mayor was direct in framing the night's purpose: "Tonight is not about winners and losers. Tonight is about healing. Tonight is about reconciliation. Tonight is about moving forward together." He reflected on the impact the recall season may have had on the city's young people, particularly members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, who "heard the chatter," "saw the division," and "witnessed strong words without meaningful strategies." He expressed concern that if adults were confused by the events of the preceding months, children were surely confused as well, and said, "We owe ourselves something better, and we certainly owe the next generation something better."

Mayor Bivens described his experience canvassing the city — visiting homes, apartments, senior communities, nursing homes, and businesses — and said he came away with "one abiding truth: we have far more in common than what divides us." He shared that he had encountered residents who initially supported the recall but changed their minds after learning the facts, noting that this experience "reminded me of something profound — truth may move slowly, but truth has a way of finding its way home."

He identified shared human values underlying the divisions: "Everyone wants to be heard. Everyone wants to be valued. Everyone wants to be respected. Everyone wants to feel connected." He cautioned against trivializing democracy, saying, "It's not a game. It's not entertainment. It's not a sport. It must be treated delicately and with care."

While reaffirming his commitment to "openness, transparency, and accountability," Mayor Bivens also acknowledged that the forces that brought the community to this moment — "the big lies, the attacks on credibility, the efforts to dehumanize, the negativity and distortions" — could not be ignored. He declared that "Whitehall is too important. Our people are too precious. Our future is too bright to surrender to division."

Mayor Bivens concluded with a call for reconciliation as a governing principle, not only of his administration but of every elected official serving the city. He stated, "Wisdom must triumph over ignorance. Truth must triumph over fear. And reconciliation must become the guiding principle not only of this administration, but of every elected official privileged to serve in this city." He extended his hand to all residents regardless of how they voted, saying, "This city belongs to all of us. Let us move forward not as adversaries, but as neighbors, not as strangers, but as one community." He closed with a blessing over the council, every resident, every visitor, and the city as a whole, affirming, "We are the city of opportunity, and we are better, and we are stronger together."

Remarks by Council Member Amy Harcar

Councilor Harcar thanked all residents who came out to vote, noting that she was "quite impressed with the turnout overall for a special election in June, especially when it created so much confusion for so many individuals." She also thanked poll workers, election officials, and volunteers who made the election possible. She encouraged all eligible residents to register to vote, observing that "clearly your votes matter" and that "some elections are called by just a couple of votes."

Councilor Harcar then turned to the question of how Whitehall must move forward. She stated that building a community where everyone feels welcomed and valued "will take courage from all of us." She described that courage in specific terms: the courage to acknowledge that every side of the debate has room to grow; the courage to recognize that those we disagree with "are still capable of doing good things"; the courage to admit mistakes and correct misjudgments; and perhaps most notably, "the courage to tell the people who supported you that your perspective may have changed — that someone you once stood in opposition to is someone you have come to understand, perhaps even respect and maybe even like."

Councilor Harcar was direct in identifying the obstacles to healing. "We cannot heal if the council remains divided in us versus them," she said. She called on council to apply a consistent standard of accountability to all members, to reject the substitution of social media narratives for "direct communication, transparency, and truth," and to recognize that the city's broader network of elected partners — congresswoman, state representatives, and senators — are "not outsiders" but "partners, and we need them." She also acknowledged the contributions of those who live outside Whitehall but work, pay income taxes, shop, and eat in the city, saying that "without them, our businesses would likely not survive."

Articulating her vision of leadership, Councilor Harcar called for leaders who are "willing to listen to more than just a few voices," who are present in the community, willing to hear dissent, willing to admit error, and "willing to correct misinformation and reject harmful rhetoric, even when it comes from their own supporters. That is what courage looks like."

On the subject of accountability — one of the stated reasons for the recall — Councilor Harcar stressed that accountability requires following the facts, recognizing transparency when it exists, sharing evidence when making claims of misconduct, and reading legislation carefully before reaching conclusions. "If your goal is to find fault in someone, you will find it," she said. "But if your goal is to never question those who agree with you, then accountability becomes impossible." She maintained that accountability "must be applied consistently and fairly to everyone without exception."

Councilor Harcar closed by expressing deep gratitude to voters for the opportunity to continue serving. She addressed Mayor Bivens directly, saying, "Your commitment to this community, your resilience during these difficult times, and your dedication to public service has been evident through this process, and I am proud to call you my friend." She also addressed Councilor Elmore, noting that while the final vote count was still pending, she remained "hopeful and optimistic" and thanked her for "your leadership, your passion, and your friendship." She thanked supporters for carrying them through what she described as "a lot to pack into a short amount of time — it was exhausting," and acknowledged the many new relationships formed through the recall process. She concluded: "The election is over and the work remains, and that work belongs to all of us. So we have got to figure out a way that we can all move forward together."

Remarks by Council Member Lori Elmore

Councilor Elmore opened by thanking all who were involved in the special election, noting that regardless of which side individuals represented, the election brought out over 19 percent voter participation — a figure she said spoke to how important the community's work is and how strongly residents feel about being "heard, being seen, or just wanting to be a part" of the process.

Councilor Elmore thanked her fellow council members, emphasizing her belief in leadership and respect. "Respect is one of those things that we owe to each other," she said. "It doesn't cost anything. It's just something that should be a human right." She acknowledged that this commitment to mutual respect had at times put her at odds with others, but was unapologetic in her conviction that "I don't let people disrespect me, nor should anybody allow anybody to disrespect them."

Councilor Elmore offered extensive praise for Mayor Bivens, whom she described as "God's man," "a man of vision," "a man of integrity," "a man of character," and "a man that stands for righteousness, justice, and peace." She thanked him for his leadership and for "keeping your eye on the prize" in spite of opposition.

Councilor Elmore then addressed the nature of her own speech the previous evening, clarifying emphatically: "I did not give a concession speech. What I gave was a speech of humility to let people know that whatever happens, I'm okay." She grounded that sense of equanimity in her personal faith, stating that all the negativity, hatred, and false narratives she had experienced had not broken her spirit. "If you know who you are and if you know what you stand for, nobody can break you," she said. "I am unbreakable."

Turning to the dynamics of community organizing, Councilor Elmore referenced a rule-of-100 framework, explaining that in any organizing effort, approximately 10 percent of people will follow no matter what, 10 percent will remain opposed regardless of the evidence presented, and the critical 80 percent are the persuadable middle. "Our responsibility and our job is to affect the 80 percent," she said, while acknowledging that some would continue to believe falsehoods even when confronted with facts: "A mind made up against his will is still the same opinion still."

Councilor Elmore expressed pride in the campaign process, noting that rather than relying on social media, she and her supporters went "door to door and knocked on people's doors — we met, we greeted people, we had conversations." She also addressed the behavior of some observers during council sessions, noting with evident frustration that "every time I start talking from this dais, there's somebody that talks while I'm talking, and that's the part that's really disrespectful." She observed that "you learn more when you close your mouth and you listen with your ears and open your heart."

On the subject of the city's trajectory, Councilor Elmore expressed pride in having been one of those who advanced legislation and "looked after the health, the safety, the welfare, and the peace of this community," and stated her intention to continue doing so. She also noted that "there was voter intimidation in this process," describing it as "mind-boggling, the depths that some people will go to win," and stated that the final vote count was still ongoing.

Councilor Elmore spoke to the importance of Whitehall's diversity, noting that she moved to Whitehall 14 years ago precisely because of its character as a melting pot, and declared firmly that she intends to remain: "I bought a house here on Fairway Boulevard, and Lori Elmore is here to stay."

She addressed Councilor Harcar with warm encouragement, calling her "a stand-up, passionate, loving kind spirit," while also challenging her to "figure out a way that we can all move forward together" and resist working along partisan or factional lines. "This is supposed to be a nonpartisan bench," she said. "The numbers don't mean anything. The people mean everything."

Councilor Elmore closed with a call for healing rooted in scripture — citing 2 Chronicles 7:14 — and declared: "I am calling for healing in the land and the community and the city of Whitehall." She reflected on her historic significance to the city, noting that she was the first African American on council — "whether people accept that or not, that will never change" — and expressed that the present moment, whatever its outcome, "is not the end. This is the beginning of something that's going to be great."

Adjourn

President Potter thanked Mayor Bivens, Councilor Harcar, and Councilor Elmore for their remarks. He announced that the special meeting had concluded and adjourned it at 7:05 p.m., noting that a committee meeting would follow a brief recess of two to three minutes.

Submitted by,

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: July 7, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

City of Whitehall

City Council Committee Meeting

June 24, 2026 minutes

Administration/Council of the Whole Matters

Council President Potter called the Whitehall City Council Committee Meeting to order on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 7:09 PM. President Potter noted that while the published agenda indicated no draft legislation, four pieces of draft legislation were received after the deadline and would be presented for first reading. Council members were encouraged to contact the respective requesters before the July 7th Council meeting.

Committee of the Whole Legislation/Issues

Late-Filed Draft Legislation — First Readings

Ordinance No. 062-2026

Authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$5,308.24 from unappropriated monies in the General Fund 101 to the Repair Equipment Expense Account 101.975.60800, and declaring an emergency. The ordinance was requested by Deputy Auditor Chris Peterson. Director Rowlands clarified that a fire department vehicle had been damaged, an insurance claim was filed, and the reimbursement funds received must be returned to the appropriate account — a housekeeping matter.

Motion to introduce Order No. 062-2026 will be made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The item is requested for passage on first reading.

Resolution No. 027-2026

Authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and enter into a grant acceptance agreement on behalf of the City of Whitehall for a Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP) grant in the amount of \$1,000, to be used toward driver training for the Police Department. Director Rollins noted that the PEP grant is offered annually and rotated among city departments; the Police Department is the recipient this cycle.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 027-2026 will be made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Harcar. The item is requested for passage on first reading.

Resolution No. 028-2026

Authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and enter into a grant acceptance agreement for the 2025 BJA JAG Local Allocation Grant in the amount of \$19,669, to be used toward the purchase of a rapid prisoner transport wrap, portal radios, and a live scan digital fingerprint system. Councilor Dixon noted the item was requested by Deputy Chief Plesich, who was not present.

Councilor Dixon requested an explanation of the "wrap" restraint device. Lieutenant Tanner Williams of the Whitehall Police Department addressed Council, describing the wrap as a law enforcement tool designed to safely restrain non-compliant individuals during transport, preventing them from injuring themselves or officers. He noted that officers currently lack a vehicle-compatible transport option for such individuals and that the device would address situations such as individuals striking their heads against a partition during transport. Lieutenant Williams agreed to forward informational materials to Council members. The item was characterized as an important risk management and officer safety tool.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 028-2026 will be made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Adkins. The item is requested for passage on first reading.

Resolution No. 029-2026

Authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and enter into a grant acceptance agreement for the 2026 Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program Grant in the amount of \$39,513.75, to be used toward the purchase of bulletproof vests. President Potter noted that body armor vests have a five-year service life and must be regularly replaced. Lieutenant Williams confirmed this, noting the department has received this grant previously. Councilor Harcar inquired as to how many vests the grant funding would cover; Lieutenant Williams indicated he did not have that figure immediately available but would provide it.

Motion to introduce Resolution No. 029-2026 will be made by Councilor Morrison and seconded by Councilor Dixon. The item is requested for passage on first reading.

Second Reading

Ordinance No. 060-2026 (Committee of the Whole – 3rd Reading – Adopt 07/21/2026-Dixon/Adkins)

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.

Director of Economic Development Russell presented this ordinance, explaining that the city has been in active negotiations with the property owner for several months. The subject property is the residential structure on East Broad Street situated between the former KFC location and Panda Express — the last remaining house along that corridor. The seller requires a closing during the week of July 21st, necessitating the expedited legislative timeline.

Director Russell stated that the city's primary motivation is to control the future development destiny of the parcel, as the current owner had expressed development intentions that may not align with the city's strategic plan or zoning code. While no specific end use has been determined, potential outcomes include partnership with existing development partners such as Casto, use as green space, or other development consistent with the character of Broad Street. Director Russell emphasized that the city has invested approximately \$11–15 million in streetscape improvements along the corridor and wishes to protect that investment.

Regarding the purchase price, Director Russell explained that negotiations began at a higher figure and were reduced to a mutually agreeable amount. The seller had purchased the property in 2021 for \$175,000 and had documented renovation investments. An appraisal will be obtained, though the agreed purchase price will not change based on its outcome.

Councilor Dixon inquired about the distinction between the city purchasing the property versus the Whitehall Community Improvement Corporation (WCIC) doing so. Director Russell clarified that while both entities may hold property, the WCIC has the ability to sell property at a profit, whereas the city cannot. Should a profitable sale opportunity arise, the city could transfer the property to the WCIC for that purpose. The decision to proceed through the city was made on the basis of timing and available resources.

Resolution No. 025-2026 (Committee of the Whole – 2nd Reading – Suspend & Adopt 07/07/2026 – McCann/Morrison)

A Resolution 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 this item will move forward for suspension and adoption at the July 7th Council meeting. There was no additional discussion.

Standing Committees

Administration and Financial Management — Chairperson Elmore

Members: Morrison, McCann, Brown

Councilor Elmore opened and closed the committee at 7:25 PM. There were no drafts or pending legislation. No discussion items were raised.

Community and Elder Advocacy — Chairperson Harcar

Members: Adkins, Dixon, Brown

Councilor Harcar opened the committee at 7:25 PM. There were no drafts or pending legislation. Councilor Harcar raised the matter of accessibility in the Council chambers, noting that the existing audio equipment is insufficient for individuals who are hearing impaired and is generally inadequate when the room is at capacity. Councilor Harcar indicated she and Councilor Elmore have discussed the issue and that she is exploring solutions to improve audio access and inclusivity. She expressed hope to bring a formal proposal to a future committee meeting within the coming weeks. Director Rowlands was asked to look into available funding for such improvements. The committee closed at 7:27 PM.

Community Standards and Enforcement — Chairperson McCann

Members: Dixon, Elmore, Harcar

Councilor McCann opened the committee at 7:27 PM and reported two items on third reading.

Third Reading:

Ordinance No. 049-2026

An ordinance to amend Section 505.23 of the Whitehall Codified Ordinances to prohibit the feeding of deer. Scheduled for adoption on July 7, 2026.

Ordinance No. 050-2026

An ordinance 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. Scheduled for adoption on July 7, 2026, with a Planning Commission meeting on July 2, 2026 and a Public Hearing on July 7, 2026. Councilor Harcar noted that she had spoken with Curtis Nutter and intends to attend the Planning Commission meeting to provide background context and address questions regarding this ordinance.

The committee closed at 7:28 PM.

Economic Development — Chairperson Dixon

Members: McCann, Morrison, Brown

Councilor Dixon opened the committee at 7:28 PM. There were no drafts or pending legislation. Director Russell provided an update on the Whitehall Rise Community Strategic Plan. She noted that public participation has been lower than desired — approximately 25–30 residents attended the first open house and 44 completed the online survey — and that the planning process is now in the phase of testing and refining goals based on feedback received.

To broaden engagement, the planning team will host a booth at the upcoming Food Truck Festival and a subsequent open house at National Night Out, bringing the total number of open houses to four. Director Russell described the various stakeholder group sessions that have been conducted, covering

topics such as arts and culture, economic resilience, parks, and community branding, with between 8 and 15 participants each.

Councilor Dixon and Councilor Elmore expressed that while the turnout was not alarming given the circumstances, the city is providing genuine opportunities for public participation, and residents should be encouraged to take advantage. Council Member Morrison emphasized that civic engagement is a two-way responsibility and encouraged residents, particularly those active on social media, to participate constructively in the planning process. The committee closed at 7:35 PM.

Infrastructure, Maintenance and Services — Chairperson Brown

Members: Morrison, Dixon, Adkins

In the absence of Chairperson Brown, Councilor Morrison presided and opened the committee at 7:36 PM. There were no drafts or pending legislation. Councilor Morrison acknowledged Director Rowlands and the Year of the Road initiative, noting positive community reception. Councilor Dixon inquired about concerns raised on social media regarding the quality of striping work on Yearling Road. Director Rowlands confirmed that Griffin, the striping contractor, had returned to address overspray and other imperfections; the company owner personally came out to remediate the work. Director Rowlands acknowledged the work was not perfect but noted the result is significantly improved over pre-project conditions. The committee closed at 7:37 PM.

Public Safety — Chairperson Morrison

Members: Elmore, Adkins, Harcar

Councilor Morrison opened the committee at 7:37 PM. There were no drafts or pending legislation. Councilor Morrison noted that several first reading items would be forthcoming for Council's consideration at the next meeting. The committee closed at 7:38 PM.

Parks and Recreation — Chairperson Adkins

Members: Elmore, Harcar, McCann

Councilor Adkins opened the committee at 7:38 PM. There were no drafts or pending legislation. Councilor Harcar commended the Parks and Recreation Department for the Summer Kickoff event held on June 5th and the Juneteenth celebration, both of which drew strong community attendance and were noted for their quality of programming, entertainment, and favorable weather. Councilor Adkins and Councilor Harcar also expressed appreciation for the professionalism of the Whitehall Police Department at community events, noting there were no reported incidents. The committee closed at 7:41 PM.

President Potter, having no additional business before Council, adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Submitted by:

Julie A. Ogg, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: July 7, 2026

Thomas M. Potter, Council President

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

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

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 ~~and~~ a 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

ORDINANCE NO. 00-2026

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.

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

(bc) 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.

(ed) 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.

(de) 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.

(ef) 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. 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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 062-2026

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHT AND 24/100 DOLLARS (\$5,308.24) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT (101.970.56800) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City has received insurance reimbursement funds related to the repair or replacement of damaged equipment; and

WHEREAS, these reimbursed monies must be appropriated into the proper account to cover repair costs and ensure accurate financial accounting; 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 in the amount of five thousand three hundred eight and 24/100 (\$5,308.24) to the Repair of Equipment Account (101.970.56800), representing insurance reimbursement funds received for equipment repair.

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. 063 -2026

APPROVING A FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN AND 88/100 DOLLARS (\$40,715.88) FROM UNAPPROPRIATED MONIES IN THE SEWER UTILITY FUND (840) TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND (401).

WHEREAS, in 2024 the City borrowed funds for various sanitary sewer rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 119-2025 appropriated monies for repayment; and

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

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

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Whitehall approves a fund transfer in the amount of forty thousand seven hundred fifteen dollars and 88/100 (\$40,715.88) from unappropriated monies in the Sewer Utility Fund (840) to the Debt Service Fund (401).

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

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

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 027-2026

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A GRANT ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO FOR THE PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL OF OHIO (PEP) GRANT.

WHEREAS, the City seeks authorization and support from the Council of the City of Whitehall to accept funding through the Public Entities Pool of Ohio, recognizing the importance of supporting risk management efforts of its law enforcement officers to reduce liability risk; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Agency (LGA) is seeking grant funding through the PEP in the amount of One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00), to be used toward the purchase of Driver Training; and

WHEREAS, the grant does not require a match; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of this grant requires the LGA 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, accept, receive, 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 Driver Training for the Whitehall Division of Police.

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

Requested and prepared by: David Plesich, Deputy Chief of Police
Approved as to form: Bradley S. Nicodemus, City Attorney bsn 06/23/2026

RESOLUTION NO. 028-2026

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A GRANT ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO FOR THE 2025 BJA JAG LOCAL ALLOCATION GRANT.

WHEREAS, the City seeks authorization and support from the Council of the City of Whitehall to accept funding through the 2025 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) - Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, recognizing the importance of providing its law enforcement officers with equipment necessary to ensure their safety and the safety of the community, and to enhance investigative effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Agency (LGA) is seeking grant funding through the JAG Local Allocation Program in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Nine and 00/100 Dollars (\$19,669.00), to be used toward the purchase of a WRAP prisoner restraint, portable radios, and a Livescan Digital Fingerprint System; and

WHEREAS, the grant does not require a match; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of this grant requires the LGA 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, accept, receive, 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 a WRAP prisoner restraint, portable radios, and a Livescan Fingerprint System for the Whitehall Division of Police.

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. 029-2026

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.

WHEREAS, the City seeks authorization and support from the Council of the City of Whitehall to accept funding through the Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program, recognizing the importance of providing its law enforcement officers with protective equipment necessary to ensure their safety in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Agency (LGA) is seeking grant funding through the Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program in the amount of Thirty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen and 75/100 Dollars (\$39,513.75), to be used toward the purchase of bulletproof vests; and

WHEREAS, the grant requires a twenty-five percent (25%) match; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of this grant requires the LGA 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, accept, receive, 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 bulletproof vests for the Whitehall Division of Police.

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