

MINUTES

Members Present: Vito Gallo, Stephanie Colbry, Benn Smith, Cheryl Huckabee-Washington, Jeffrey Warren, Michael Dee, Kent Newhart

President's Update Welcome! Vito called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

- Approval of Minutes (Stephanie)
- September 18th, 2023, minutes voted unanimously for approval.
- Whitehall Mayoral candidates are here to discuss their economic development plans for the Township; (Q&A with Township Commissioner Joe Marx and Treasurer Tina Koren)
 - Tina Koren- presented her background with the township as part of the school board and with the township as treasurer. Focus on issuing a tax holiday for businesses as well as connecting more to other key partnerships in the township.
 - Joe Marx- presented his background with the township as President and Vice President of the small commissioners. Focus on the blighted space of the Dairy and the Whitehall Mall with the current developers Washington Prime and the Abrams group that is working on the Walmart locations. Must spend money to make money philosophy.
 - Q&A discussion ensued with a focus by both candidates on making Whitehall business friendly with current licensing and permit structures revisited and the inclusion of a full-time Economic Development Director. Discussion on old police building current condition as a residential zoned asset with the township based on recent appraisal. Conversation on the benefits of an incubator in the township to ensure future success of retail industry in the township.

Financials (Benn)

- No significant changes from the budget from September meeting.
- Received township check which was approved to be increased to \$10,000 to cover additional costs associated with the \$2,500 seed money for the Historical Thomas Ironworks Project.
- Motion called by Benn for approval of the financials, Cheryl seconded; approved unanimously. (Vito was absent from vote)
- Benn presented a copy of the budget for the upcoming 2024 budget to be approved in the next meeting.
 - Reduction of \$7,000 interest resulting from the treasury sale changed to an interest received at current APY 5.2% to be approximately \$2,700 for money market interest.
 - Additional \$5,000 for special project as well as an additional \$5,000 for consulting income like the Whitehall Mall.
 - Additional revenue estimated for \$5,250 for conduit bond financing fees.
- No change on loan pool reported.

Mayor's Report (Mike)

- No mayor's report. Mayoral candidates presented. (see in minutes above)

Commissioners Report (Jeff)

- Jeff raised concerns that TIF is being misunderstood by partners and stressed the importance of educating appropriately.

Old Business/Project Updates (Vito)

- Sign unveiling event (Saturday, October 21st, 2023, 9:00am) with Whitehall Chamber and Historic Preservation Society.
- EV charging stations in Whitehall continues conversations in the township.
- Bond counsel meeting occurred with Urban CoLab on next steps.

New Business (Kent, Cheryl)

- No new Chamber updates from last meeting
- Board of Directors 2023 term expirations (Cheryl & Kent).

Next Meeting

- December 18th, 2023, 6:30pm at ATA Financial, 1044 Third St., Whitehall, PA 18052

Adjourn