

CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 14, 2005  
MINUTES

1. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kenneth Zichi, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given, led by the Boy Scouts.

3. Roll Call: Mayor Kenneth Zichi, Mayor Pro-tem Larry Wittrup, Council Members James DeForest, Penny Davis, George Monroe, Scott VanAllsburg, and Robert Hanna. Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Dave Stoker, Police Chief Tom Ambs, State Auditors Juan Suasto & Jim Carlson, JFM Productions, NIESA Representative Jamie Janson, MSU Professor Mike Hamm and assistant Christina, Boy Scouts, and citizen Gwen Hulbert & MSU Journalism Student Jillian VanStrat.

4. Approval of Agenda: Add 9e. TIFA Plan 2B Amendment Approval. MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

5. Audience Participation: Mayor Zichi called for public comment at this time and there was none.

6. Public Hearing- TIFA 2B Plan Amendment: The public hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Zichi. City Manager Lisa Hitchcock commented that the TIFA 2B plan amendment will allow for the purchase of the property at 200 Elevator Street and will not increase the taxes captured or change the TIFA 2B boundaries. Mayor Zichi called for public comment at this time and there was none. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m.

7. Council Minutes of January 24, 2005: MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO APPROVE THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2005 AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

8. Accounts Payable: Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$309,221.08 and included payroll, insurance, consultants, attorneys, utilities, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 4142-4246. MOTION BY HANNA, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AS PRESENTED. YES: ZICHI, DEFOREST,

WITTRUP, DAVIS, MONROE, VANALLSBURG, HANNA. NO: NONE. MOTION PASSED.

## 9. Action Items

9a. Audit Presentation: Auditor Jim Carlson spoke to the City Council regarding the State Treasury Department's findings in the 2003/2004 Audit report. Overall the financial position of the City has improved. MOTION BY MONROE, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO APPROVE THE 2003/2004 AUDIT AS PRESENTED. YES: DAVIS, MONROE, VANALLSBURG, HANNA, ZICHI, DEFOREST, WITTRUP. NO: NONE. MOTION PASSED.

9b. Park & Recreation: MSU Professor Charles Nelson presented a slide show to the Council regarding the new Park & Recreation Plan. MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO APPROVE THE DRAFT PARK & RECREATION PLAN FOR 2005 THROUGH 2009 AS PRESENTED. YES: HANNA, ZICHI, DEFOREST, WITTRUP, DAVIS, MONROE, VANALLSBURG. NO: NONE. MOTION PASSED.

9c. Proposal for Engineering Services for 2005 Water System Improvements: MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM CAPITAL CONSULTANTS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE 2005 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS IN AMOUNTS NOT TO EXCEED \$46,500 FOR ENGINEERING, \$2,500 FOR BIDDING, AND \$48,000 FOR CONSTRUCTION. YES: WITTRUP, DAVIS, MONROE, VANALLSBURG, HANNA, ZICHI, DEFOREST. NO: NONE. MOTION PASSED.

9d. Resolution 03-05 Authorization to Submit Grant Application to Voting System: MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION 03-05 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR NEW VOTING SYSTEMS AS PRESENTED. YES: ZICHI, DEFOREST, WITTRUP, DAVIS, MONROE, VANALLSBURG, HANNA. NO: NONE. MOTION PASSED.

9e. TIFA 2B Plan Amendment: MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 02-05 APPROVING THE TIFA 2B PLAN AMENDMENT AS PRESENTED. YES: DAVIS, MONROE, VANALLSBURG, HANNA, ZICHI, DEFOREST, WITTRUP. NO: NONE. MOTION PASSED.

## 10. Discussion Items

10a. Library: The Williamston Community Library Foundation is going ahead with the property purchase of a potential location for the library. The Council believes that the Library Foundation is being too hasty in the

purchase and is not exploring the options the Council has put forth. The Council feels that rental and moving expenses for the library relocation have been estimated too high. Councilmember Davis suggested a survey be distributed in the City Newsletter to see what the citizens want.

10b. Board Appointments: Mayor Zichi announced that there are board openings on all the boards and encouraged citizens to apply for a board position. The Council directed City staff to come up with a description and term limit for a Park and Recreation Board.

## 12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager: Lisa Hitchcock submitted a written report and added that the Council should voice their opinion to the state regarding the proposed gas tax and CDBG grants.

12b. City Attorney: No report.

12c. Police Chief: Tom Ambs reported that he attended the Blue Mass ceremony for the Police, Fire and Emergency Services. He also announced that the Police & Kids Golf Outing will be July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Brookshire Inn and Golf Course.

12d. Treasurer-Budget Report: A budget report was submitted by the City Treasurer for January 2005.

## 13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

13a. Legislative Director: Councilman DeForest commented that the Governor has submitted the state budget for review and has not proposed revenue sharing cuts.

14. Audience Participation: NIESA Representative Jamie Janson commented that some of the Boy Scouts have asked NIESA about potential Eagle Scout projects that could be done. He will refer them to the City.

15. Council Member Comments: Councilman DeForest commented that the new pedestrian bridge looks great. Councilman Hanna commented that Jamie Janson of the Fire Department will be holding a meeting regarding the accident that occurred on January 12<sup>th</sup> to see what went well and what could be improved. Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the Williamston Theatre Project will be performing at the ArtFest this year and also asked if a date can be set for the CPR training. Mayor Zichi

asked Council members to bring their calendars to the next meeting so a date could be set for the CPR training.

16. Closed Session- Property Acquisition: MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PROPERTY ACQUISITION. YES: ZICHI, DEFOREST, WITTRUP, DAVIS, MONROE, VANALLSBURG, HANNA. NO: NONE. MOTION PASSED.

Closed Session started at 8:56 p.m.

MOTION BY DEFOREST, SECOND BY WITTRUP, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Closed Session ended at 9:25 p.m.

Action on Closed Session: No action was taken on closed session.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_