

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 25, 2005
MINUTES**

Mayor Zichi called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 161 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston, Michigan. Mayor Zichi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Zichi, Mayor Pro-Tem Wittrup, Council Members Davis, DeForest, Hanna, Monroe, VanAllsburg
Absent: None
Others: City Manager Hitchcock, Attorney Toskey, Executive Secretary Garnham
Visitors: Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton, AftFest Chairperson Gwen Brandon, Sean Costello

4. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Zichi stated that item 8d needed to be removed from the agenda, as this item was actually for the next Council meeting. City Manager Hitchcock recommended that item 14b, Closed Session for Property Acquisition, be added.

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Wittrup**, to approve the agenda with the deletion of item 8d and the addition of item 14b. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

5. Audience Participation (non-agenda items)

Sean Costello presented the results of his fifth grade Serve to Learn project, which was a survey of students at Discovery and Explorer Elementary Schools to see if they thought the library should move. He also suggested to the Council that a student representative be included when making plans for the library. Mayor Zichi agreed it would be a good idea.

6. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting of April 11, 2005

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Wittrup**, to approve the minutes as presented. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

7. Accounts Payable

Hanna reported that the accounts payable, reference numbers 4563-4636, total \$197,900.01 and include payments for the Fiscal Year 2004 audit, payroll, consultant and attorney fees, utilities, insurance premiums and other miscellaneous supplies and services.

Motion by **Hanna**, seconded by **Wittrup**, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, DeForest, Wittrup. No: none. **Motion carried.**

8. **Action Items**

a. **Election Inspectors' Pay Schedule**

City Manager Hitchcock explained that due to election consolidation, the County is running the upcoming school election and has set the pay schedule for that election based on a survey of area communities. In order to keep the Election Inspectors' pay consistent for all upcoming elections, she recommended that the City's Election Inspectors' Pay Schedule be made consistent with the County's. Hitchcock further recommended that as two of the Council Members, DeForest and Hanna, are Election Inspectors, they should abstain from the vote on the pay change.

Motion by **Wittrup**, seconded by **Davis** to allow Hanna and DeForest to abstain from the vote on the Election Inspectors' Pay Schedule. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Wittrup, Davis, Monroe, Hanna, DeForest. No: none. **Motion carried.**

Motion by **Wittrup**, seconded by **Davis** to change the City's Election Inspectors' Pay Schedule to \$8.00 per hour for inspectors and \$9.00 per hour for the chairperson. Yes: Wittrup, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: none. **Motion carried.**

b. **Audit Contract for 2005-2007**

City Manager Hitchcock stated that the Department of Treasury has performed the City's audits since 2001. There are several advantages to having the Treasury Department perform the audits: they are lower in cost than a private firm; they are available to answer questions throughout the year at no additional charge; and they are up to date on the latest audit requirements. The disadvantage is that sometimes it takes longer to complete the audit.

Motion by **Wittrup**, seconded by **DeForest** to approve the State of Michigan Treasury Department's contract dated March 16, 2005 for fiscal years 2005 through 2007. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, DeForest, Wittrup. No: none. **Motion carried.**

c. **First Reading of Ordinance No. 293 – To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Revenue Bonds**

City Manager Hitchcock stated that although the Ordinance specifies that the bonds are for the water and sewage systems, the bond sale proceeds are for water system improvements only, including the new well, water mains and well controls. Wittrup asked why the bond sale amount was \$900,000 when the ordinance states that the project is \$1,900,000. Hitchcock stated that this is the second bond sale; a previous bond sale was made for \$550,000 last year and the proceeds were used for the water main replacement on Church Street.

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Wittrup**, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 293 as presented. Yes: Zichi, DeForest, Wittrup, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: none. **Motion carried.**

e. ArtFest Certificate of Recognition

Mayor Zichi introduced Gwen Brandon, the Chair for this year's ArtFest. Ms. Brandon said that the ArtFest will include many new things this year, including an expansion of the Children's Art Tent to include young adults up to 16 or 17 years of age, and that the Williamston Theatre Project will be kicking off events on the main stage. Mayor Zichi stated that the ArtFest had won an award from the Regional Economic Development (R.E.D.) Team for being one of the region's arts and entertainment offerings of note. He then presented a certificate of recognition to Ms. Brandon on behalf of the City Council. She thanked the Council for recognizing ArtFest and showed them the plaque ArtFest had received from the R.E.D. Team and stated that they would like to display it at City Hall after ArtFest is over.

9. Discussion Items

None.

10. Correspondence Received / Information Only

Mayor Zichi pointed out that the Ingham County Courthouse 100th Anniversary Celebration coincides with the Red Cedar River Clean-Up. He encouraged people to try to attend both events.

11. Staff Reports

a. City Manager

City Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report. She added that there will be additional Election Inspector training at City Hall on April 27th, and that she would be attending a public testing of the voting equipment on April 26th. Wittrup asked about the meeting with CADL that the Manager mentioned in her report; Hitchcock stated that the meeting was actually scheduled for April 26th, not the 25th.

b. City Attorney

No report.

c. Police Chief

Monthly statistics submitted.

d. Assessor

Gail Watkins submitted an annual report.

12. Committee / Sub-Committee Reports

a. Legislative Director

No report.

13. Audience Participation (non-agenda items)

There was no audience participation.

14. Council Member Comments

Monroe – none.

Davis - a spaghetti dinner fund raiser for Police & Kids will be held on May 14th at St. Mary's.

DeForest – thanked the Garden Club for planting the daffodils at the I-96 ramp.

Wittrup – morning traffic on Putnam Street is very frustrating because of the bridge construction.

Hanna – the Chamber of Commerce has produced an informational brochure on Williamston that will be available at City Hall.

VanAllsburg – Steve Stanley, an area tennis instructor and coach, is interested in covering the tennis courts near the elementary schools to provide an indoor tennis facility.

Zichi – there is a Library Foundation meeting on April 27th, and a representative of the City should attend. He stressed that the current library site is available at no cost. He encouraged people to attend the River Clean-Up on May 7th.

14b. Closed Session – Property Acquisition

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Wittrup**, to go to Closed Session to consider Property Acquisition. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, DeForest, Wittrup, Davis. No: none. **Motion carried.**

Closed session started at 7:42 p.m.

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Wittrup**, to return to open session. Voice vote all Yes.

Returned to open session at 8:08 p.m.

No action was taken on the Closed Session.

15. Adjourn

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Wittrup**, to adjourn. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Catherine Garnham, Executive Secretary

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date approved: _____