

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2005
MINUTES**

Mayor Zichi called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Hanna, Council Members Davis, DeForest, Monroe, VanAllsburg
Absent: None.
Others: City Manager Hitchcock, Attorney Perrone, Executive Secretary Garnham, Police Chief Hetfield
Visitors: Citizens Bill St. John, Brian O'Connell, Michelle Hyne, Tim Grossman; JFM Productions

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Hanna**, to approve the agenda as submitted. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

5. Audience Participation (non-agenda items)

There was no audience participation.

6. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting of July 25, 2005

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Hanna**, to approve the minutes as presented at the Council table. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

7. Accounts Payable

Hanna reported that the accounts payable, reference numbers 5101-5188, total \$121,097.99 and include payroll, consultant and attorney fees, utilities, insurance premiums and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Hanna also mentioned a refund to TMN for water and sewer tap fees as their building permits had expired.

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

8. Action Items

a. City Council Appointment

Mayor Zichi stated that he would entertain motions or discussion. Motion by **Davis**, seconded by **VanAllsburg** to appoint Brian O'Connell to fill the City Council vacancy.

Monroe stated that Mr. O'Connell works for the State legislature, and asked him if the legislature had a night session that conflicted with a Council meeting, how would he handle it? Mr. O'Connell replied that he

works for the Senate, which rarely has night sessions and meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Davis stated that she had spoken with Mr. O'Connell about several issues they would like to have resolved. She further stated that Mr. O'Connell was familiar with the bureaucratic process, and that he had stated he wanted to be in a position to make an impact.

DeForest stated that he was pleased with all the candidates and encouraged those who were not appointed to consider running for Council in the fall as he would not be running for re-election.

Mayor Zichi stated that petition forms for City Council were available at City Hall. Hitchcock stated that the petition form must come from the Clerk's office. Mayor Zichi stated that other board appointments were available, and that it was a tough decision because there were five really good candidates for one spot.

Mayor Zichi called for a vote on the motion as stated. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, DeForest. No: none. **Motion carried.**

b. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance #295 to Create a Parks & Recreation Commission

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Hanna** to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance #295 to Create a Parks and Recreation Commission.

Zichi stated that the ordinance had been crafted to get as much variety on the commission as possible. He also stated that he would like a youth member on the board because of the nature of the commission.

City Manager Hitchcock stated that the commission appointments would occur at the first City Council meeting in September.

Mayor Zichi called for a vote on the motion as stated. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, DeForest, Davis. No: none. **Motion carried.**

c. Request for Variance to Municipal Standards – Springbrook Estates

City Manager Hitchcock stated that the Municipal Standards require sanitary sewers to be located in the roadway for maintenance reasons. Because of the elevations, the Suttel Drain and the wetlands, it was necessary to go across lots to connect to the existing sewer main in order to avoid the wetlands. We had required a 12-foot driveway to service the one manhole that is not located in a street.

Mayor Zichi asked if the driveway was off one street as it was hard to see on the diagram. Hitchcock stated that the driveway was off one street and the other lines indicated the easement for the sewer main.

Monroe asked if the entrance to Springbrook Estates was off Zimmer Road. Hitchcock stated that it was off Zimmer Road and that it connected to Grand Meadows in two locations because the length of the road requires another exit.

Hanna asked if the Planning Commission had reviewed the plan. Hitchcock stated that it had been reviewed by the City's engineer, and that the Planning Commission did not generally review utility plans.

Mayor Zichi stated that Springbrook Estates is in the 425 area, and that it was Category III. Hitchcock stated that it was the first Category III development.

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Hanna**, to approve the request for a variance to the Municipal Standards for Springbrook Estates as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, DeForest, Davis, Monroe. No: none.
Motion carried.

9. Discussion Items

None.

10. Correspondence Received / Information Only

d. Sparrow Health System Correspondence

Mayor Zichi stated we should provide pictures. City Manager Hitchcock stated that Alison Alfredson, the Community Development Director, was providing them. Zichi stated that they should include the City logo.

h. CADL Director's Report July 2005

Mayor Zichi stated that draft documents from Miller-Canfield for forming a Library Joint Building Authority (JBA) were being circulated to Williamstown and Wheatfield Townships for their review, and that the JBA should be formed within the next 30 to 40 days.

e. NIESA Agenda August 4, 2005

Hanna stated that NIESA has taken an option on land on Grand River Avenue east of Churchill Downs. They have submitted a preliminary site plan to the Planning Commission, who gave preliminary approval.

Mayor Zichi asked if it would just be a fire hall. Hanna stated that it would have Fire, EMS, training rooms and offices, and would be the headquarters for NIESA. He also stated that a conceptual drawing showed a ladder truck for future planning.

DeForest asked what would happen to the existing fire hall? Hanna said that was yet to be determined.

b. Water Bill Complaint

VanAllsburg stated that the water bill complaint was a healthy way to show displeasure, as opposed to throwing rocks, etc.

Mayor Zichi expressed frustration because the Council tries to get information to people on this issue. Hitchcock stated that she believed it was from someone who has moved out of the City and did not leave a forwarding address.

11. Staff Reports

a. City Manager

City Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report. She stated that she did not have anything to add. DeForest asked what HDPE stands for. Mayor Zichi stated it is High Density Polyethylene.

DeForest also stated in reference to the section on Performance Evaluations that the City should wait to make salary adjustments until after bargaining with the police is complete. Hitchcock stated that she would be talking to Bonnie Toskey about this issue.

VanAllsburg asked how far above the call of duty the DPW had been when installing the water main on Corwin Road. Hitchcock stated that the high heat and humidity conditions had been very hard to work in, especially for the person going into the excavation, where it is even hotter. VanAllsburg asked if there was another way to show appreciation. DeForest suggested giving letters of commendation.

b. City Attorney

No report.

c. Police Chief

Chief Hetfield stated that he was revising the report format to include more information. Mayor Zichi stated that would help the Council make informed decisions.

d. Treasurer - Financial Reports for July 2005

Treasurer Alan Dolley submitted written reports. Mayor Zichi stated that we are in a new budget year.

e. Community Development Director's Report

Mayor Zichi stated that he thought attendance was down from last year at the Farmers' Market. City Manager Hitchcock stated that it was still early for crops, and that the market had started in August last year.

12. Committee / Sub-Committee Reports

a. Legislative Director

DeForest stated that he had received an email notice about Senate Bill 1504, The Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act, sponsored by Senators Ensign and McCain. This bill would eliminate zoning for cellular towers, would limit City control over Right-Of-Ways for cable franchises, and according to the MML could cost Michigan cities \$100 Million in annual revenue. DeForest stated that he had already called Senators Levin and Stabenow, and that the City should pass a resolution opposing the bill.

DeForest stated that Michigan House Bill 4398 could remove zoning requirements for residential daycare centers.

President Bush signed the Energy Bill, which would extend Daylight Savings Time for four weeks, three earlier in March and one later in November. However, the Department of Energy will be conducting a study to determine if we actually save energy through Daylight Savings Time.

13. Audience Participation (non-agenda items)

Bill St. John asked for a progress report on the Putnam Street Bridge. Mayor Zichi stated that both sides of the bridge will be open for traffic in November. City Manager Hitchcock stated that the top course of asphalt will be applied in the spring. Mayor Zichi stated that restoration will also take place in the spring.

14. Council Member Comments

VanAllsburg – none.

Hanna – none.

DeForest – welcomed new Council member.

Davis – the Library Foundation is meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Annex.

Monroe – none.

Zichi – also welcomed new Council member.

15. Adjourn

Motion by **DeForest**, seconded by **Hanna**, to adjourn. Mayor Zichi asked if anyone was opposed, and no one answered. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Catherine Garnham, Executive Secretary

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date approved: _____