

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 12, 2005
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Kenneth Zichi and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Mayor Kenneth Zichi, Council Members James DeForest, Brian O'Connell, George Monroe, Penny Davis, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: Robert Hanna.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton, 966 Southfield Dr. resident Marty Crawford, and MSU Journalism Student Jenna Heitchue.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add item 8c. Mary LaClear Certificate of Appreciation.

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Audience Participation:

Marty Crawford of 966 Southfield Dr. commented that she is opposed to Southfield Dr. being connected to Plymouth Landing subdivision. She believes this will have a negative impact on their neighborhood as it is currently a peaceful and quiet neighborhood. Mayor Zichi answered that the City is considering connecting the two areas to improve safety by allowing emergency vehicles better access to both areas, and to create a walkable community within Williamston. Ms. Crawford believes this will only create more traffic through her street and will increase danger to the residents. She questioned whether all dead end streets were being considered for road connections. Mayor Zichi replied that roads that are able to be connected to other roads are being considered. Councilman O'Connell empathized with Ms. Crawford as his subdivision is also being considered for connection to Plymouth Landing. He is currently discussing other options with the Mayor. City Manager Hitchcock commented that the bid documents have already been prepared for the street connection and water main replacement, but the water main replacement is the only project to be done this year. Road connections will not begin until spring 2006.

6. Council Minutes of August 22, 2005 and Special Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2005:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Davis**, to approve the regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2005 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Councilman DeForest requested that his question regarding whether there was anything of historical significance in the Community Center building with the engineer answering that there is nothing in the building of historical significance, be included.

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the September 7th, Special Meeting Minutes as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Monroe reported that the accounts payable totaled \$151,650.01 and included attorney fees, payment on the mortgage for the Public Services building, sewer camera, and other miscellaneous supplies and services.

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **Davis**, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Yes: Zichi, DeForest, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Award of 2005 Water System Improvements Contract B – Well House Project:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Monroe**, to award the bid for the Well House project to Irish Construction Company, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$408,700 as presented. Yes: O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Zichi, DeForest. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8b. Resolution #16-05 Designating the City of Williamston's Surplus Property Donee and Custodian:

City Manager Hitchcock reported that this will allow the City to purchase from the State and Federal surplus sales of items such as office equipment and vehicles.

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Davis**, to approve resolution #16-05 designating the City of Williamston's Surplus Property Donee and Custodian as presented. Yes: Zichi, DeForest, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8c. Certificate of Appreciation for Mary LaClear:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the Certificate of Appreciation for Mary LaClear as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Tax Deductibility of Contributions to the Williamston Police & Kids Fund:

The City Attorney distributed an opinion regarding the tax deductibility of Police and Kids contributions. Attorney Perrone commented that contributions to the Police and Kids Fund would be tax deductible as long as proper tax deduction rules are followed.

9b. Proposal from Lighthouse Community Church for Youth Center:

Mayor Zichi commented that he was approached by the Lighthouse Community Church regarding a proposal to use the Community Center gym for a youth center. The church will present a formal proposal at a future Council meeting.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock reported that the letter was received from the Attorney General's office with preliminary approval for the proposed Charter Amendment language. She also passed around a draft of the sidewalk study which is currently being developed on the GIS system by Mr. Lentz.

11b. City Attorney:

No report.

11c. Police Chief:

Chief Hetfield submitted a written report for Council review.

11d. Planning & Development Administrator:

Administrator Wilson submitted a written report for Council review.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he is serving on the Ordinance Review committee and they are currently working on the Recreational Vehicle Ordinance. He asked the Council their opinions regarding the Ordinance. Councilman Monroe stated that it would be difficult to enforce an ordinance that prohibited recreational vehicles on a citizen's property. While his own subdivision has covenants prohibiting any recreational vehicles within the subdivision, he could see that if someone owned a landscaping business that they would be in violation of the ordinance. Councilperson Davis commented that as long as there was only one recreational vehicle on their property, she would not be opposed to it. Mayor Zichi agreed with Davis' comments as long as it is licensed.

12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

12a. Legislative Director Report: Councilman DeForest reported that he received a letter from Senator Carl Levin's office expressing his sympathy for local control issues regarding the federal telecommunications. The current Legislative Link outlined possible concerns about imminent domain legislation.

At least half of the States are reacting to a federal supreme court decision allowing a City to tear down people's houses so developers can construct buildings that will bring in higher taxes. He will investigate this issue further and report back.

13. Audience Participation:

MSU Journalism student Jenna Heitchue introduced herself to the Council and explained that she will be writing about Williamston in the coming months.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilperson Davis commented that she felt that a public hearing should be held within the next two meetings to discuss the road connections between Plymouth Landing, Williamsburg subdivision and Southfield Dr. Councilman Monroe asked if maps could be provided as well. Councilman VanAllsburg asked whether the City makes plans and changes them, will the City be liable if something happens to someone? Mayor Zichi replied that the City would not be liable. VanAllsburg also asked if someone has a question, can he relay the answer back to them? Mayor Zichi answered that it would be acceptable. Councilman VanAllsburg also commented that the rapids project has been a nice improvement to the area as it has taken away graffiti on a cement structure by the river. Mayor Zichi commented that he contacted the Lansing State Journal and informed them of the Williamston Area Beautification Funds efforts to raise money for the Band Shell in McCormick Park. He added that the Labor Day walk was a success with nearly one hundred people in attendance and thanked Frank Buzzitta for his efforts in coordinating the walk.

15. Closed Session- Pending Litigation - Brook Development, LLC vs. City of Williamston:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Monroe**, to go into closed session to discuss the pending litigation between Brook Development, LLC and the City of Williamston. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, DeForest, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe. No: None.
Motion passed.

Closed session started at 8:15 p.m.

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Davis**, to return to open session. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Closed session ended at 8:47 p.m.

Action on Closed Session: There was no action taken on closed session.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____