

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

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Penny Davis, Michelle Hyne, Robert Hanna, George Monroe, Brian O'Connell, Scott VanAllsburg, and Kenneth Zichi. Absent: None.

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton, Planning Commissioners Frank Buzzitta, Joseph Rozovics, and William Schall, DDA Member Timothy Grossman, Zoning Board of Appeals Members John Pratt and Robert St. John, citizens Dick Couturier, Paula Zichi, Jason Miller, and other members of the public.

4. Nominations for Mayor/Mayor Pro-tem:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to nominate Ken Zichi for Mayor.

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **Hanna**, to close nominations. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Davis, O'Connell. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

Vote on Nomination: Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Davis. No: None. Abstain: Hyne and O'Connell. Reason being: There was no reason given.

Motion passed.

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to nominate Bob Hanna for Mayor Pro-tem. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

5. Approval of Agenda:

Remove item 16. Closed Session.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion passed by voice vote.

6. Audience Participation:

Mayor Zichi called for public comment at this time and there was none.

7. Council Minutes of November 28, 2005:

On page 6., 4th paragraph, 3 lines down, change "consistency" to "inconsistency".

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Monroe**, to approve the November 28, 2005 Minutes as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$150,021.30 and included Insurance, Attorney Fees, Consultant Fees, Bond payments, the Cemetery Yearly contribution and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 5809-5925.

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

9. Action Items

9a. Certificate of Appreciation for James DeForest:

Mayor Zichi presented a Certificate of Appreciation to James DeForest for his 12 ½ years of service to the City Council and Boards.

9b. 1st Reading of Ordinance #296 Lighting Ordinance Review:

Planning Commissioner Joseph Rozovics reported that the draft lighting ordinance has been drafted after the Dark Skies Ordinance and has been reviewed by a lighting engineer. The first seven bullets discuss the highlights of the ordinance. The ordinance would create uniform lighting throughout the City with downward lighting where it is most needed.

Mayor Zichi commented that this will be different than a lot of ordinances already in place because it will not allow grandfathering and will set a time limit for current lighting to be modified.

Rozovics added that public safety is the goal, and a user friendly ordinance. Councilman Hanna questioned if the forty cities referenced as using this ordinance were in Michigan or the entire United States. Rozovics answered that it was in the United States.

Councilman O'Connell questioned what partly shielded meant. He also commented that he has a light fixture that stated for safety reasons a hundred watt bulb should be used. Commissioner Rozovics stated that partly shielded means not direct lighting but perhaps some up lighting.

O'Connell questioned how the City Council would handle exemptions and who would enforce the ordinance. Rozovics answered that a special use permit would be required with proof as to why a special use is needed and the enforcement would be mainly complaint driven.

Councilperson Davis questioned if the City lights would be in compliance with this ordinance. Mayor Zichi stated that the new ones will, but the old ones will need to be modified. They are already scheduled for replacement, so they would have been replaced within five years anyhow.

Councilperson Hyne asked if this will cost the City money. Mayor Zichi answered that it will cost the City initially for upgrades but will save the City money over time with the reduction in energy used.

Councilman VanAllsburg questioned how this would affect businesses. Zichi answered that it would depend on the zone they are in.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the Ordinance is very well done and is thorough. Zichi expressed his appreciation for the work the sub-committee has done.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the first reading of Lighting Ordinance 296 as presented. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Resolution 17-05 City Council Meeting Dates for 2006:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve resolution 17-05 for the 2006 City Council meeting dates as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9d. Committee Appointments for Council Members:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Zichi to the DDA with Hanna as alternate, VanAllsburg to the EDC/TIFA with Davis as alternate, Monroe to the Cemetery Board with Hanna as alternate, Hanna to NIESA with Hyne as alternate, O'Connell to the Williamston Community Library Foundation with Hyne as alternate, Davis to the Planning Commission with VanAllsburg as alternate, Hanna and Monroe to the Personnel Committee, Hanna and Monroe to the Finance Committee, and O'Connell as the Legislative Director. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9e. Pay Increases for Non-Union Employees:

Hanna reported that the Compensation Table approved at the previous Council meeting coincides with the step increases on the chart. The \$5,000 stipend for the Executive Secretary is for licenses she maintains for water and wastewater. He also stated that the City Manager is compensated based on the non-union employees' increases. Mayor Zichi commented that a form will be distributed at the next meeting for the City Manager's evaluation. Councilman Hanna commented that the personnel committee may re-evaluate all of the compensation steps because some of the employees are already at the top of their chart.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the non-union wage step increases as presented. Yes: Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9f. Eigenhauer- 435 N. Putnam St. Request for One Time Burn Permit:

The request for a one time burn permit to dispose of brush was submitted and forwarded to the City Attorney for an opinion. The attorney opinion stated that

the ordinance does not provide for this particular exception. The City Council has no authority to grant such a permit under the current City Ordinance.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to adhere to the City Burning Ordinance and deny the request for a one time burn permit. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12b. City Attorney:

No report.

12c. Planning & Development Administrator:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

14. Audience Participation:

Robert St. John congratulated the City Administration on the excellent City web-site. He also thanked the City staff for the copy of the City Council agenda that was e-mailed to him. Dick Couturier questioned if all of the City offices would be located at the community center. Mayor Zichi answered that yes, they would all be located there. Mr. Couturier suggested that the Police Department be moved to the current City Hall to help traffic flow. He also asked if the sledding hill would remain there. Zichi answered that it will.

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilperson Davis reminded sledders using the sledding hill to make sure the path they are walking is a clear path so they are not getting run over by other sledders and also encouraged parents to accompany their children.

Councilman Hanna encouraged people to fill out the Master Plan survey on the City web-site. He also announced that there will be a Chamber Luncheon on December 15th. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Birthday to the Mayor.

Councilperson Hyne asked for the City Council and City Administration to complete the questionnaire she submitted.

Councilman VanAllsburg reported that the Williamston Theatre Project will be renting the former Mr. G's Furniture location that was bought by a benefactor and will be rented to them for \$1 a year. He encouraged people to contribute to the effort. He also reported that he attended the Cool Cities seminar. He will compile a list of the ten things that successful towns are doing and distribute it to Council.

Mayor Zichi commented that it will be nice to have the Theatre in town and mentioned that the City had an opera house between 1870 and 1920.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____