

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 10, 2006  
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, Mayor Pro-tem Robert Hanna, Council Members Penny Davis, Michelle Hyne, George Monroe, Brian O'Connell, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, *Enterprise* Reporter Will Whelton, EDC Members Dan Frank and Mike Thomas, Zoning Board of Appeals Member Robert St. John, Habitat for Humanity Representative Debi Drick, citizens Terri Campbell, Brad Simmons, and other members of the public.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Add item 9c. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment.

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

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Terri Campbell commented that she is disappointed on an article in the Williamston Enterprise regarding the Wells Drive road connection and Councilman O'Connell's comments regarding protecting the people in Plymouth Landing from the rest of the City. Councilman O'Connell stated that his comments were taken out of context. He told the reporter that he wanted the citizens to be safe because of children playing in the road and the lack of sidewalks in the area. Terri Campbell added that she understands that most news articles need to be taken with a grain of salt, however she believes Will Whelton's concept of the issue is pretty good. She understands the concerns from the residents but believes that if they want a gate there then any street should be able to put a gate up keeping people out. She does not believe that situation is unique to that area only, but is a situation in the entire town.

**Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton stated that he thought the story was very clear and that the quotes were regarding vehicle traffic.**

**6. Council Minutes of March 27, 2006:**

On page 2, 22 lines down add "(Council clarified the statement, saying that the time frame was for the Building Inspector)".

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the regular Council minutes of March 27, 2006 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$209,474.56 and included consultant payments, insurance, legal fees, utilities, community pool, community center lease, bond payments, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 6499-6588.

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

**8. Presentation of Proclamation for Brad Simmons:**

On behalf of the Council Mayor Zichi presented a Certificate of Recognition to wrestler Brad Simmons for his state title. Mike Thomas led the audience in the Williamston Fight Song in honor of Mr. Simmons achievement.

**9. Action Items**

**9a. Purchase of Police Vehicle:**

Manager Hitchcock recommended the Ford Expedition for \$22,804. The new vehicle will allow for safer computer storage. Shelves will be built to house the computer equipment. Equipment and graphics will also need to be added for an additional cost. Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he is not comfortable voting on this until a contract is signed with the Police Department. The City should find out what the City is getting from the Williamston Police Department as compared to what they could get from Ingham County. Mayor Zichi commented that he believes the value of having a Police Department in town is worth it. He does believe though, that it is a valid question. Councilman Hanna commented that it is something to consider, but the department needs the vehicle now. Mayor Zichi commented that the police cars are now in rotation to keep the fleet up. Councilman Monroe asked what happens to the equipment that is in the old car. Chief Hetfield commented that some of it will be reused. Councilman O'Connell asked what new items would be needed to outfit the car. Chief Hetfield answered that the transfer will cost them with labor, new graphics, bumper guards, cages, shelving, etc., will all need to be purchased. **Hyne questioned the approval of the fire chief**

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **Hanna**, to approve the purchase of the Ford Expedition for the Police Department in the amount of \$22,804 as presented. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9b. Habitat for Humanity Request to Paint Fire Hydrants:**

Debi Drick presented pictures of various painted fire hydrants. She stated that the project is of no cost to the City and Habitat will be working with the DPW Director to select the type of paint that will work best for the project. The fundraiser will be for the Habitat for Humanity with businesses donating money to sponsor a fire hydrant. Nothing obscene or inappropriate will be painted. She is working with the Fire Chief to get some guidelines. Councilman VanAllsburg volunteered to paint one. If the paints are damaged Habitat will paint it the standard color.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Hanna**, to approve the request for fire hydrant decorative painting from the Habitat for Humanity with no cost to the City and Habitat working with the DPW Director and Fire Chief. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**9c. Zoning Board of Appeals Reappointment:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to concur with the Mayor's re-appointment of Michael Moody to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire 1-1-09.

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

**10. Discussion Items**

**10a. Sale of Fire Hall:**

Councilman Hanna distributed a design concept of the proposed fire hall and reported that the cost of the project is approximately four million dollars. The proposed millage will include improvements to the Leroy Township Hall. The building will have six bays, living quarters, offices, training rooms, and will be one story. A public hearing will need to be held to sell the current building according to the City Charter. The millage required would be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mill. The millage would not include the purchase of a ladder truck. Mike Thomas asked if the City would be interested in a land swap. Council responded that they are not able to do land swaps.

**12. Staff Reports**

**12a. City Manager:**

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report and added that the bids for the project on E. Riverside Street were opened and the project will be approximately \$20,000 over the Engineer's estimate.

Councilman O'Connell asked about the variance for the library and when it was known that the library had a setback issue.

Manager Hitchcock stated that they knew it was an issue at the beginning of March.

Councilman VanAllsburg questioned the revised memo by the Planning and Development Administrator and a date for the library to be moved.

Manager Hitchcock explained that there was inaccurate information in the memo and the second memo was to correct the error.

**12b. City Attorney:**

No report.

**12c. Planning and Development Administrator:**

Administrator Wilson submitted a written report for Council review.

**12d. Treasurer:**

Treasurer Dolley submitted the financial report for March 2006 for Council review.

**13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports**

**13a. Legislative Director:**

No report.

**14. Audience Participation:**

Robert St. John commented that he is a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and they have to decide if the request is for a unique situation. He urged anyone interested to attend the meeting.

**15. Member Comments:**

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the Council has a pattern of reacting when there is a lot of audience present and upset over an issue and the Council is not prepared to answer the questions posed. He believes that the Council needs to be better prepared by perhaps getting information earlier to review. For example the first reading of the lighting ordinance was glossed over and approved. He stated that the Council is caving in on certain issues because they are not as prepared as they should be. **Member Hyne supported these concerns.**

Councilmember Davis commented that items should be put into discussion items in the beginning of a meeting if there is a problem.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

**\*THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.**

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk**

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**Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor**

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