

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 24, 2006
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Ken Zichi and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Mayor Kenneth Zichi, Mayor Pro-tem Robert Hanna, Council Members Michelle Hyne, Brian O'Connell, Penny Davis, George Monroe, and Scott VanAllsburg.
Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Dave Stoker, JFM Productions, EDC Members Mike Thomas and Dan Frank, ZBA Member Robert St. John, and citizen Terri Campbell.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Remove the Special Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2006 from item 6.

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

Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Audience Participation:

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

6. Council Minutes of April 10, 2006:

On page 1, item 5, insert "Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton stated that he thought the story was very clear and that the quotes were regarding vehicle traffic." at the end of the paragraph. On page 3, item 9a. add "Hyne questioned the approval of the fire chief". On page 4, item 15. 7 lines down add "Member Hyne supported these concerns."

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the City Council regular meeting minutes of April 10, 2006 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$119,038.13 and included payments to consultants, insurance, utilities, bonds, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 6589-6672.

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

8. Action Items

8a. Proposal to CSX Railroad:

Manager Hitchcock reported that the TIFA has approved the amending of their plan to purchase property from CSX to gain the property that the ice house is encroaching on and the City wants to use for streets. The amount of property is just under four acres. The property would be split between the TIFA and the City. The offer to CSX for the property is \$48,000 which would be paid out of the TIFA 2b fund. The City Manager is asking for permission to negotiate with CSX on the property transaction.

Councilman O'Connell asked how this would impact the business and house located on Railroad Street. Manager Hitchcock replied that it would allow them to gain access to the back of their buildings.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Monroe**, to authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations with CSX Railroad and the TIFA for the purchase of the railroad property. Yes: Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Joint Library Building Authority:

Wheatfield Township did not approve the joint library building authority agreement with the City and Williamstown Township. Mayor Zichi reported that he met with Williamstown Township Supervisor Mickey Martin to discuss their course of action. They decided that perhaps the Library Foundation should be taken at their word and allowed to raise the funds to build the library. The Community Center will be a temporary move. Councilman Hanna commented that the Council should give them a timeline to work from to make sure goals are being met in a timely fashion. Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the Council should get out of the Library Foundation's way and encourage people to donate. Councilmember Hyne recommended that the Library Foundation be asked to do a presentation on what they are planning to do perhaps in a month. Mayor Zichi would like to hear a plan of what they want to do first. Councilman VanAllsburg asked how much money had been put into drafting the agreement for a joint building authority that Wheatfield Township appeared to be interested in. Manager Hitchcock replied that it was over \$4000. Councilman Monroe commented that Ed Noonan claimed that if the City was not in the Foundations' way to raise the money they could do it, so he believes the City should get out of their way and let them raise the funds.

9b. City Manager Employment Contract:

Manager Hitchcock reported that she has not received any feedback from the Council except from the Mayor regarding her contract. She suggested that the labor committee draft a contract for the Council to review with the current

contract as the basis for the new one. Councilman Hanna asked for Council to e-mail or call him with comments and suggestions to help the labor committee with the contract. The labor committee members are George Monroe and Robert Hanna.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report for Council review and added that the building permit for the Bucket has been issued. Councilmember Hyne asked for a copy of the timeline for the Bucket receiving their permit. Manager Hitchcock also reported that aerial photographs of the City will be on the City's GIS. The joint meeting with Williamstown Township will be held on May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Williamstown Township hall.

11b. City Attorney:

Attorney Dave Stoker reminded the Council that there are still Charter amendments that need to be done and suggested that a few be selected and placed on the upcoming ballots. The Council concurred and asked the City Manager and City Attorney to work on them. He also reported that the City and Village Zoning Act has been repealed. He recommended that the Planning Commission review the changes. Councilman VanAllsburg asked about the status of the new executive secretary. Manager Hitchcock replied that she is still reviewing more than 200 resumes.

11c. Police Chief:

No report.

11d. Community Development Director:

Director Alfredson submitted a written report for Council review.

11e. WWTP:

A written report was received for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

12a. Legislative Director:

Councilman O'Connell reported that the legislators have less money to work with this year than they did last year. The potential revenue sharing increase may be a bad idea, because if they increase the revenue sharing it will be taken from another budget. The cable franchise agreement may give the local cable companies some competition for services available to the citizens.

13. Audience Participation:

Robert St. John reminded the Council of his request for the status of the Sewer Master Plan progress. Terri Campbell asked when the trash contract with

Granger will expire. Manager Hitchcock answered that it will not expire until next June. Mike Thomas asked what it will take to legalize outdoor fireplaces in Williamston. He offered to get the ordinance Williamstown Township uses for burning. Attorney Stoker agreed that the City burning ordinance is vague and probably needs amending.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilmember Hyne questioned if Wells Drive plans have been received. Manager Hitchcock replied that she has a meeting regarding it tomorrow and will report back.
Councilman O'Connell apologized for missing the budget meeting due to surgery on his ankle.
Councilman VanAllsburg announced that tickets for the first play at the Williamston Theatre will go on sale in May.
Mayor Zichi thanked the City Manager for reminding them of the School Election on May 2nd. He also congratulated the Destination for Imagination Group for their 1st and 2nd place wins at state level.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____