

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2006
MINUTES**

Mayor Zichi called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Hyne, Monroe, O'Connell, VanAllsburg
Absent: none
Others: City Manager Hitchcock, Attorney Perrone
Visitors: Planning Commissioner Frank Buzzitta, EDC/TIFA Treasurer Dan Frank, EDC/TIFA Chair Mike Thomas, Terri Campbell, Forest of Nottingham Representative Bill Dyke, Joe Eiffert, Rachel Olsen, Leo Sheets, Bob Palazollo, Bill St. John

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by **Hanna**, seconded by **O'Connell**, to amend the agenda as by reversing the order of item 9a and item 9b. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

5. Audience Participation (non-agenda items)

There was no public comment.

6. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting of July 24, 2006

Motion by **O'Connell**, seconded by **Hanna**, to amend the minutes of July 24, 2006 by changing the "???" in item 8a. to **A representative**. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

7. Accounts Payable

Hanna reported that the accounts payable, reference numbers 7083-7187, total \$340,073.58 and include a four-month electrical billing for the wastewater treatment plant, \$181,440.45 to Irish Construction for the Well Project, two bond payments, and the payment for the new utility truck.

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

8. Proclamation

Councilmember Monroe stated he was able to help the food bank with the Kiwanis distribute toys and food a few years ago and learned that the Larsons organized the food bank and have been operating it for over fifty years. He would like them to be commended for their service to the community.

9. Action Items

a. Board Appointments Rachel Olson-ZBA for a term to expire 01/01/07 & Karen McGarry-DDA for a term to expire 06/30/09

Ms. Olson introduced herself.

Motion by **Hanna**, seconded by **O'Connell**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Rachel Olson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire 01/01/07. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

Ms. McGarry introduced herself.

Motion by **Hanna**, seconded by **O'Connell**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Karen Joy McGarry to the Downtown Development Authority for a term to expire 06/30/09. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

b. Resolution 11-06 – Forest of Nottingham Readiness to Serve Water Billing

Motion by **O'Connell**, seconded by **Hanna**, to adopt Resolution 11-06 as presented. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis. No: none. **Motion carried.**

c. M.C. Molds Tool & Die Recovery Zone

Manager Hitchcock reported that this is a Council policy decision. The information provided is on the State of Michigan website.

Mayor Zichi asked if there were any other businesses that could benefit from this.

Mr. Palazzolo replied that the only one he thinks might benefit is Midway Engravers. He provided a list of other businesses that have applied for the grant and a letter from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. The reason they are making the improvements to the building is because of competition with foreign companies. They have been located in Williamston since 1989. The building has been expanded once. The state is going to allow 5 or 6 more collaborations until the end of September. He is aware of 4 or 5 companies. The state reimburses the school taxes that are not collected with the only taxes not paid being to the local municipality. He also stated that there is property behind M.C. Molds near the bus garage that they are interested in.

Member Hyne asked if the increase in space would increase employment.

Mr. Palazzolo answered that they are hoping to increase employment by 20 people.

Member Hanna asked how many machines they have.

Mr. Palazzolo answered that there are 92 machines.

Monroe asked if molds are considered a tool or a die.

Mr. Palazzolo answered that they are considered industrial molds.

Hanna asked how long they are going to ask for the tax abatement for.

Mr. Palazzolo answered 15 years.

Mayor Zichi asked if assurances could be made that M.C. Molds is planning on staying in Williamston.

Mr. Palazzolo answered that they are planning to remain in Williamston.

Motion by **Davis**, seconded by **Monroe**, to direct the City Manager to have a resolution prepared for the next council meeting supporting the Tool & Die Recovery Zone for M.C. Molds. Voice vote all Yes. **Motion carried.**

10. Discussion Items – none

11. Correspondence Received / Information Only

f. Department of Labor & Economic Growth Correspondence

O'Connell asked if another complaint has been filed.

Manager Hitchcock responded that she is not aware of another complaint.

O'Connell also asked who filed the MIOSHA complaint.

Manager Hitchcock stated that the state does not disclose who the complainant is.

VanAllsburg asked if the Library is trying to hold up the move for fundraising reasons.

O'Connell replied that no, the Library Foundation is not trying to find ways to hold it up.

Hanna commented that the new location is about the same size but in better condition. He believes the Foundation is being an obstacle rather than a help.

O'Connell replied that the inspections have not been done yet.

Hanna replied that instead of finishing with the inspections they are answering complaints.

O'Connell commented that the City did not reply in a timely manner and had asked for an extension.

Zichi commented that there was only a week to respond to the original complaint.

Monroe asked why they do not want to move.

O'Connell commented that he does not believe that the board is trying to hold up the move.

Zichi commented that he is getting frustrated that City sources are being used in a negative manner and is tempted to close the current library.

Davis commented that there has been a lot of time and effort put into this and the Library Foundation has been working on it for a long time and has not been able to do it on their own. The perception is that the Library would rather stay where they are.

Zichi commented that the City has been very articulate that this is a temporary move.

VanAllsburg commented that he wants to move the library to the Community Center space, and would like a resolution to support the Community Foundation to build a library on the lot they want it on.

O'Connell commented that people need to start attending the Library Foundation meeting.

Davis commented that the Library Foundation was asked to come to the Council meeting in May and they never came.

Manager Hitchcock replied that it was her fault they did not attend the Council meeting because she did not write the letter to them asking them to attend due to changes on the board. She added that the library staff is excited about the move.

Terri Campbell commented that she is tired of the bickering back and forth.

Leo Sheets commented that he made the complaints to the state and just wants the building to be safe. He has not seen a building permit posted anywhere. He added that he submitted a Freedom of Information Request July 17th regarding the construction inspection reports and has not received them yet.

Manager Hitchcock responded that the construction inspection reports are ready to be picked up but she had mis-read his request.

Councilman Hanna asked if Mr. Sheets intends to hold up the move by filing complaints every time it is ready to be occupied.

Mr. Sheets answered that it is not his intention.

Hanna commented that he is in favor of a library built in any location.

Manager Hitchcock apologized to Mr. Sheets for her misunderstanding.

O'Connell commented that the City has not put this issue behind them because ~~they are not in support of~~ **there has not been a resolution about** the new location.

VanAllsburg commented that he would like to see this on the next agenda.

12. Staff Reports

a. City Manager

City Manager Hitchcock reported that the deed on the Community Center has been cleared. The E. Riverside Project is on schedule. The controls for the water tower and wells are being coordinated. A meeting has been scheduled with the AFSCME union. The City Manager also commended the election inspectors on their job at the August 8th election.

b. City Attorney

A written report was distributed regarding the Zoning Enabling Act.

c. Treasurer

There were no comments.

d. Planning & Development Administrator

There were no comments.

13. Committee / Sub-Committee Reports

a. Legislative Director

O'Connell stated that the legislature was currently not in session.

14. Audience Participation (non-agenda items)

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

15. Council Member Comments

Councilman Hanna commented that it was reported in the Enterprise that Mayor Zichi's daughter, Anna made it onto the Dean's list at Alma College. Mayor Zichi commented that the Labor Day walk is scheduled for Labor Day at 10:00 a.m. and thanked Frank Buzzitta for coordinating this for the second year.

16. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair

Motion by **Hanna**, seconded by **O'Connell**, to adjourn. Mayor Zichi called for opposition to adjournment. Hearing none, Mayor Zichi called for adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa K. Hitchcock, City Clerk

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date approved: _____