

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 George Monroe, Scott VanAllsburg, Michelle Hyne, Brian O'Connell, and Penny Davis.
Absent: None.

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, JFM Productions, Ingham County EDC Representative Sue Pigg, Frank Buzzitta, Terri Campbell, Library Foundation Representative Susan Graff, Friends of the Library Representatives Marlene Eppley, Shirley Yelmington, John and Melissa Fishbeck, and John Brazier, RCRA Representative Robyn Yarmack, and Variance Applicant Aaron Pietella.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add item 9e. Request from Schools Regarding Fee Waiver.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, 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 August 28, 2006:

On page 3, 9a., 1st line of discussion, change "bring" to "keep". In 9b. 1st line, change "Ric,e" to "Rice,". On page 6, 6 lines down, delete "Council". On page 9, item 15., last line add "Councilmember Hyne inquired about Wells Dr."

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the City Council regular meeting minutes of August 28, 2006 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$37,338.51 and included utilities, consultants, attorneys, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 7288-7352.

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

8. Presentation by the Williamston Community Library Foundation:

Friends of the Library representative John Fishbeck introduced himself as the Treasurer of the Friends of the Library and as a Williamston resident. CADL has funds available for the Williamston Library to use, but they cannot do so in the current facility. The Foundation was incorporated in 2001 and was directed by the City Council to build a new library. He felt that it was very clear that communities that built a new library had increased patronage. Libraries that did not build their buildings big enough have had to go back to the people for more money to build an addition. The goal is to keep the library in the downtown. Unfortunately there is not a lot of property available in the downtown. The property acquisition was very time consuming, but they have selected and purchased a site. Susan Graff reported that the library has seen over twice the amount of library patrons, circulation, and computer usage since 2000. The proposed library will be 15,000 square feet. The grant writing has already begun. They are planning a Halloween Ball, Mystery Dinner, and Poker Tournament. The project is ready to go when they receive enough donations.

9. Action Items

9a. CADL Resolution:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Monroe**, to approve resolution #14-06 supporting the City of Mason becoming a member of the Capital Area District Library as presented. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Davis, O'Connell. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. Consider Variance from Municipal Standards for Farmers Insurance:

Aaron Pietella reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals supported their request to put the sidewalk closer to the road with a portion of green space between the sidewalk and the deck.

Mayor Zichi suggested that the sidewalk eliminate one of the jogs in the sidewalk. He suggested that the jog closest to Grand River be eliminated.

Councilmember Hyne asked if the green space would be flower beds or lawn.

Aaron Pietella answered that it could be either one.

Councilmember Davis commented that she doesn't mind the extra green space but would also like the bends reduced to one bend in the sidewalk.

Motion by **O'Connell**, second by **Davis**, to support the variance to the Municipal Standards and to amend the drawing to show the bend at the north end of the house and will comply with the City standards at the south end of the property. The sidewalk will go straight from the sidewalk at Grand River Ave. at three feet and then where number 862 is, it bends back to meet City standards. Yes: Zichi,

Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Aaron Pietella also questioned who he should go to regarding the lighting and signage for his building.

Mayor Zichi answered that he should contact the Planning and Development Administrator.

9c. Midway Engraver's Request for Industrial Facilities Exemption:

Sue Pigg of the Ingham County EDC reported that she is supplying the information to the Council.

Richard Seeley introduced himself and reported that the building was originally built in 1990 and he has been in business since 1985. He is hoping to double his business in size.

Robert Hanna asked how he finds good machinists.

Mr. Seeley replied that the company currently offers a federally approved apprenticeship program to gain good machinists. They pay for schooling through the apprenticeship program.

Betsey Seeley also gave details on their apprenticeship program.

Richard Seeley commented that his company offers 401k, dental, medical, and many other benefits to their employees.

City Attorney Bonnie Toskey asked if a public hearing is required before a resolution is adopted.

Sue Pigg answered that a public hearing will be required after the state approval.

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the resolution supporting the Midway Engraver's request for Industrial Facilities Exemption as presented.

Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell. No: None.

Motion passed.

9d. Red Cedar Recreation Association Gymnastics Waiver of Community Center Fee:

RCRA Gymnastics instructor Robin Yarmack submitted a request for waiver of the Community Center use fee as they are non-profit and are providing a service to the community.

Councilman Hanna questioned what the City pays the RCRA for.

Robin Yarmack answered that it gives residents a discount because their municipality contributes.

Councilman VanAllsburg asked if there would be six or less using the gym to get the reduced rate.

Ms. Yarmack answered that there are around 12.

Councilman O'Connell asked if she would be agreeable to paying the deposit at least.

Ms. Yarmack indicated that she would.

Motion by **O'Connell**, second by **Monroe**, to waive the per hour fee for six weeks, and have the RCRA Gymnastics pay the deposit with the issue to be revisited in October. Yes: O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9e. Request from Schools for Fee Waiver:

Motion by **Davis**, second by **Hanna**, to deny the request from the schools for the fee waiver due to lack of information and because they are for profit. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. Council Staff Communications/Chain of Command:

Councilman VanAllsburg asked what the issue is with the Council speaking to the City staff.

Mayor Zichi commented that it was brought up by John Pratt and he is unsure as to the cause.

Councilman O'Connell commented that the Charter does allow the Council to talk to staff, and perhaps during the next City Manager review, the Council can talk to staff individually to see what is going on.

Councilman Hanna commented that the City Manager was not trying to prevent staff from talking to Council members, but was trying to make sure information given out was uniform.

Councilmember Hyne commented that when she asked questions regarding her FOIA requests she had to go through the City Manager.

Councilman Hanna commented that the City Manager probably wanted to be sure a uniform answer came back.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

No report.

12b. City Attorney:

No report.

12c. Planning & Development Administrator:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12d. Treasurer:

A financial report was submitted for Council review.

13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

13a. Legislative Director:

Councilman O'Connell reported that in the MML newsletter there is an update regarding the SOS petitions and information that it may be challenged.

14. Audience Participation:

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

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilmember Davis thanked the first responders for their work and hopes they can be there for them.

Councilmember Hyne agreed with Member Davis comments and added that the First Fridays event was very nice.

Councilman O'Connell thanked the library for their presentation and added that the library brochure and website is very good.

Councilman VanAllsburg reminded that Rounding Third will be opening soon and tickets are available for purchase.

Mayor Zichi thanked the media for the Labor Day walk coverage and Frank Buzzitta for coordinating the walk. He added that the image from 9/11 that most sticks in his mind is of a police officer and a fire fighter of different racial backgrounds supporting each other. He believes that is a good message to remember.

16. Adjournment:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 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

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____