

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 13, 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 Penny Davis, George Monroe, Scott VanAllsburg, and Brian O'Connell. Absent: Michelle Hyne.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to excuse Hyne. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Planning & Development Administrator Lynn Wilson, Habitat for Humanity Representative Debi Drick, citizens Frank Buzzitta, Robert St. John, Pam Jeffers, Mike Thomas, Robin Yarmack, Jane Reagan, Warren Rau, and John Pratt.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

5. Audience Participation:

Frank Buzzitta announced a 5k run before the Labor Day walk. The run will benefit local charities and will be sponsored by Playmakers. Joe Eiffert asked if there are any traffic laws regulating tractors driving on City roads. Mayor Zichi answered that there may be something in the traffic code. He was unsure what to do about farm implements driving through Williamston but added that someone would look into it.

6. Council Minutes of October 23, 2006:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to approve the regular City Council minutes of October 23, 2006 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$478,504.40 and included insurance, utilities, Tobias/Linn Sewer System Bonds, consultants, attorneys and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 7608-7724.

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

8. Small Town Design Initiative Presentation:

Warren Rau reported that the Small Town Design Initiative program is to assist communities in the process of creating images specific to the community to figure out what it could look like in the future. A video presentation was shown with examples of what has been done in other areas in Michigan.

9. Action Items

9a. Consider Acceptance of STDI Grant:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to accept the STDI grant as presented with the \$6,000 to be paid out of the Zoning Ordinance budget item. **Yes: Hanna, Zichi, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: None. Motion passed.**

9b. Consider Habitat for Humanity Addendum:

Debi Drick of Habitat for Humanity reported that the EDC has agreed to extend the contract with them for six months with Council approval.

Motion by **Davis**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the extension of the Habitat for Humanity lease contract for another six months. Yes: O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Consider Sergeant Hull Proposal:

Police Sergeant Jeff Hull submitted a proposal to the City for rehiring after retirement. Attorney Perrone stated that a policy must be adopted before this can be done.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg** to direct the City staff or City attorney to draft a policy for their consideration. Yes: Zichi, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9d. Recommendation from Parks & Recreation Commission that the Tot Lot Stay in its Current Location:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the Tot Lot in it's current location. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

*O'Connell left at 8:15 p.m.

9e. Resolution #15-06 – Freedom of Information Policy:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Monroe**, to approve the Freedom of Information Policy resolution #15-06 as presented. Yes: Zichi, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. Community Center:

Manager Hitchcock reported that the State has given the City clearance to proceed with moving the library into the Community Center. Mayor Zichi reported that CADL is concerned with the safety of the current structure and may close the library in the winter. Manager Hitchcock reported that a doorway needs to be changed and electrical work needs to be done before the library moves in. Councilman VanAllsburg commented that Councilman O'Connell told him that the Library Foundation does not believe the current building is in as bad of shape as everyone says it is.

10b. Williamston Community Library Foundation Change to By-Laws:

A letter was received from the Library Foundation stating that the City and Townships may not appoint members to the Library Foundation.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report for Council review and added that she is anticipating a new business owner to speak to the Council at the next meeting regarding her zoning issues with a bed and breakfast she wants to put in Williamston. She added that the water tower interior painting was supposed to be finished by now, but has not yet started. The Parks and Recreation Commission was supposed to hear from the RCRA what they do and their presentation ended up being what the Tennis Boosters want to do with Memorial Park.

12b. City Attorney:

No report.

12c. Police Chief:

Statistics were provided for Council review.

12d. WWTP:

A summary was provided for Council review.

13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

13a. Legislative Director:

No report.

14. Audience Participation:

Robert St. John asked when leaf pick up ended. Manager Hitchcock answered that it ended November 13th.

Mike Thomas asked if the big green box is staying on the bridge.
Manager Hitchcock answered that she would look into it.
Mike Thomas questioned if the Executive Secretary being related to a DPW employee was nepotism.
Manager Hitchcock answered that it is not.
Mike Thomas asked what the City policy is regarding giving out City employees cell phone numbers.
Manager Hitchcock stated that there is not a policy.

15. Council Member Comments:

Mayor Zichi expressed his condolences to the family of Gregory McCoy.
Councilman Hanna commented that there will be ribbon cuttings at 9am on Tuesday, November 14, with the Chamber of Commerce. He added that the site plan for NIESA was approved contingent on an improved lighting plan.
Councilman VanAllsburg urged people to attend the new Christmas play at the Williamston Theatre.

16. Adjournment:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to adjourn. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____