

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 30, 2006
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Kenneth Zichi.

2. Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, citizens Irene Hodge, Larry Twork, Christine and Eric Eby, Jennifer Sykes, Art and Marty Crawford, Janette Brouwer, Jobin Allen, George Landolt, Cathy Leavey, Dan Smith, Vern Richter, John Pratt, John Terry, Todd Edwards, Robert Kruch, David Sweeney, Bruce Finkelstein, Diane Allen, Mike Thomas, Tom Drolett, Colleen Drolett Jane Ray, Terri Campbell, Dale Bartig, Mildred Hill, Matt & Stephanie Krumbach, Vicki Dornbush, Jeanette Risdon, Darlene Price, Doug Price, Brian Fryer, Terry Bingstrom, Jennifer Chisholm, Karen Ellis, Mark Harbison, Eric Henning, Paul Hoffman, Jos Ellenbaas, & Bill St. John.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion passed by voice vote.

4. Action Items

4a. Street Connections- Wells Drive, Foxborough, Blacksmith, Southfield, and Georgia:

i. Council Comments and Questions to Engineer and/or Attorney:

Councilmember Davis asked Attorney Perrone if the intent in the letter is to say that there is not a legal contract or commitment. Attorney Perrone answered that it is correct.

Councilman O'Connell has issues with Blacksmith Trail and Wells Drive.

Motion by **O'Connell**, second by **Hyne**, to make the Attorney Client Privilege letter regarding Wells Drive Street Connections open to the public. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Councilman O'Connell stated that the City does not have the right to connect without a taking or just compensation.

Attorney Perrone commented that there is no enforceable agreement. The letter from the former proprietor is not an enforceable document. He also commented that it was intended by a plat revision that required Foxborough Drive to line up with Blacksmith Trail for possible future connection because of safety concerns and standards for the length of a dead end road.

Councilman O'Connell commented that the City should not face legal action if the connection is not made now.

Councilmember Davis questioned if there have been any incidents. Mayor Zichi stated that there have not. ASHTO standards control the density of development. All standards are the same as Williamston's or more restrictive for safety. Letters from NIESA and the Police Department were received regarding their opinions of what would happen if the area was built out.

Councilman Monroe commented on the Georgia and Southfield fire hydrants.

Councilmember Davis commented that her first safety concern is the stopped train across the crossing at Putnam. She also commented that she asked the former Police Chief for installation of a stop sign because of an incident in Plymouth Landing and was told that the stop sign would not deter that incident.

Councilmember Hyne commented that if the streets are opened up there would be children on the streets and no sidewalks.

Councilman Hanna commented that safety is a big issue in Plymouth Landing because of substandard roads and narrow widths with parking on one side.

Mayor Zichi commented that Plymouth Landing has 48 houses with only one entrance.

Councilmember Davis commented that there could be gates at Georgia and Southfield.

Scott DeVries did not recommend this because of the length of Foxborough and added that there are other barrier options.

Councilman O'Connell asked if there could be a cul-de-sac at the end of Foxborough.

Scott DeVries replied that there is not enough room for a cul-de-sac.

Councilman O'Connell commented that there are so many subdivisions and streets that do not meet safety standards. The City should find out how much it is going to cost to correct all of the problems.

Councilman Hanna commented that the Council is trying to correct the errors that were made in the past.

Mayor Zichi commented that previous Councils violated their own standards. The City Council now has to correct these errors and meet safety standards.

Councilmember Hyne had a letter from a resident she would like reflected in the minutes. Councilmember Hyne questioned how close things cut up towards residences.

Scott DeVries replied that the road would be narrowed.

Brian O'Connell asked if there would be less or more water run off with a paved road.

Scott DeVries replied that a paved road gets to the storm drains slightly faster.

Ken Zichi asked if there would be less continuing maintenance on a paved drive.

Scott VanAllsburg asked if people were opposed to the paving.

Citizen living at the end of Georgia Street commented that she will appreciate the paving.

ii. Audience Participation:

Citizen #1 commented that they prefer a gate at Foxborough if the connection is made to will make it safer.

Marty Crawford asked why the City is paving Wells Drive. They believe this is overkill. Why not consider a gate at Georgia? She commented that none of the plans address a gate at Georgia and there are no plantings shown. Art Crawford commented that the concept of safety is important but is ludicrous to plan for something that is not going to happen.

Eric Henning commented that the fire trucks are not parking on the same side of the street. It was made clear last year that people do not want the connection. He added that if anything he would rather there be a gate put up.

Mayor Zichi commented that the ASHTO standards apply if there are more than 24 houses.

Mark Harbison commented that AASHTO standards are guidelines and not laws. The City needs to have a systematic plan to go through all of the problems and fix them.

Citizen #3 commented that they live at the corner of Georgia and Wells Drive and there will be a four foot drop from their lawn to the street. The proposed sidewalk is five feet from their pool fence. They would like the sidewalk moved. They do not need a gate if Foxborough, Blacksmith Trail, and Southfield are gated at the end of the street. Southfield Drive is centered in the right of way.

Councilmember Hyne commented that there is no reason for curb and gutter if the street is gravel.

Councilman Hanna questioned if the gravel street would affect the wetland.

Scott DeVries responded that there would have to be restoration to protect the wetlands. They do not deviate from the standards.

Citizen #4 read a letter regarding accessibility and safety.

Citizen #5 commented that a safety gate makes sense for Plymouth Landing to have two entrances.

Terri Campbell commented that she is neutral on the issue. She questioned by opening the roads what percentage of people will be using these roads? When options were given were costs given on each option? Citizen #6 commented that they need a gate west of Foxborough. Citizen #7 commented that the part of Wells Drive they are paving is not where the trucks get stuck. She believes it will be attractive to the younger drivers. The project will compromise the trees. When she moved there she asked the City for a sidewalk, now the cost is \$80,000. She commented that they did things to improve the property even though it was not their property.

Mayor Zichi commented that things are not the same as they were six years ago. The \$80,000 is tied in with the total project.

Citizen #8 commented that she heard teenagers in the pizza place talking about avoiding the patrolled area. She believes this is a colossal waste of time.

Doug Price asked the engineer what the cost is to make the connection.

Mayor Zichi responded that it will be \$80,000.

Doug Price commented that in 1996 it cost approximately \$36,000 from Jones and Henry Engineers. He referred to Member Davis' comments and the insight of the homeowners of Plymouth Landing have provided covenants and advised them if they had questions they should contact Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager. ~~Member Davis has~~ **Doug Price** stated that he never informed anyone of anything but she has not been a good neighbor. He wants Members Davis and O'Connell to ~~retract their statements~~ **not vote on the issue.**

Mark Harbison commented that the association will put in landscaping at the end of Blacksmith if a gate is installed. The City has no right to do so. They will accept the responsibility of Blacksmith Trail. He opposes any connection to Wells Drive.

Art Crawford commented that there should be emergency access only on Foxborough Drive with a crash gate.

Citizen #10 asked for a completion date.

Councilman Hanna asked the benefits of bituminous versus aggregate maintenance. Scott DeVries replied that aggregate can easily be graded; with bituminous there is less dust. If the City goes with the gates, a 12 foot bituminous roadway would be less dusty. They would have to adjust the grading plan.

Citizen #11 asked if this would create more run off. If so, it needs to be aggregate.

Doug Price questioned the water draining onto other people's property, specifically the wetland at the end of Foxborough.

Brian O'Connell thanked Doug Price for coming to the meeting and giving information. Doug Price had given requested information to Brian O'Connell before the City did. Mr. O'Connell stated he understands the request to recuse. Mr. O'Connell further stated Mr. Price has been very nice, honest and open, however, the people in the subdivision

(Williamsberg) have to agree to the connection. If Blacksmith were connected, the City would have to go to great expense. Councilmember Davis questioned what the least impact would be with the water drainage on Wells Drive. Scott DeVries commented that runoff does increase on paved roads. The same thing happens with aggregate. Pavement resists erosion and there is less dust and air pollution, it is less rutted, and there is less siltation. He will look at paving to get water to the catch basins.

Motion by **Davis**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to modify the contract to pave Wells Drive and provide emergency vehicle access at the southerly most point of Georgia Street and the northerly most point of Foxborough Drive, width to be twelve foot and up to four feet more if needed to make gutter pans, to not connect to Blacksmith Trail or Southfield Drive. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **O'Connell**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to direct the engineer to design walking paths/sidewalks between Blacksmith Trail, Foxborough Drive, and Georgia Street for walkability to Wells Drive. Yes: O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Davis**, second by **O'Connell**, to pave Georgia Street from the existing pavement south to Wells Drive. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis. Monroe. No: None. **Motion passed.**

iii. Modification of Street Connection Design:

iv. Construction Change Order:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the construction change order as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Lisa K. Hitchcock, City Clerk

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____