

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 8, 2007
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, Michelle Hyne, George Monroe, Brian O'Connell, and Scott VanAllsburg.
Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, JFM Productions, Michelle Reardon of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, citizens Robert St. John, Terri Campbell, Joe Eiffert, Mike Thomas, Leo Sheets, Marlene Epley, Amy & Blaine Kelley, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Correct item 10a. to read "Resolution #01-07 Supporting the Tri-County Regional Growth Plan.

Motion by **Hanna**, 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 November 27, 2006 & December 11, 2006:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the regular City Council minutes of November 27, 2006 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

On page 6, 11l., 5 lines down, add "Manager Hitchcock disclosed that the contractor is the ex-husband of the Executive Secretary."

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the regular City Council minutes of December 11, 2006 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$129,441.26 and included insurance, utilities, consultants, bond payments, agent fees, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 7871-8033.

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

8. Presentation – Betty Honey on City Hall – National Historical Register:
Betty Honey was not present. This will be on the next agenda.

9. Presentation- Michelle Reardon- Tri-County Regional Growth Plan:
Michelle Reardon reported that the plan began in 1999. They have found that more growth is happening in rural areas than urban. A map was provided of which municipalities have and have not adopted the resolution.

Councilman Hanna questioned if this involves the Lansing Chamber of Commerce and the REDTeam.

Ms. Reardon answered that it does not.

Councilman Hanna asked if the REDTeam is going to be non-existent.

Ms. Reardon answered that she did not know.

Councilman VanAllsburg questioned what other City decisions the resolution would affect.

Ms. Reardon responded that the resolution only encourages the City to look at the Tri-County Growth Plan before making decisions, but the City is not required to use it.

Councilman VanAllsburg asked what City decisions affect rural communities.

Ms. Reardon commented that it will affect the rural communities because of the cost of land in the cities compared to rural areas.

Councilman Hanna questioned if there are any similar communities to Williamston with the same kind of growth pattern.

Ms. Reardon answered that she would have to look into it. She also stated that the Council or anyone can call her office with questions.

Councilman O'Connell commented that he agrees with most of the principals **including** ~~except for~~ #13. He asked what is meant by the regional vision and how this would affect Williamston.

Ms. Reardon stated that the resolution is to support their vision as policy and is not a law.

Mayor Zichi asked what urban fringe referred to.

Ms. Reardon stated that the term “urban fringe” refers to the areas that do not have public sewer and water and are not considered walkable.

Councilmember Davis questioned if the Council should change the resolution to state that Williamston should support the principals **only** as they **benefit** ~~pertain~~ to Williamston.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she would like to discuss it more with the Planning and Development Administrator.

10. Action Items

10a. Resolution #01-07 Supporting the Tri-County Regional Growth Plan:
Motion by **Davis**, second by **O’Connell**, to table the Tri-County Regional Growth Plan resolution until the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10b. Community Center Use Policy:
Councilman VanAllsburg expressed his concern that there was no attempt to define the **categories of** organizations.

Councilman O’Connell responded that it would be at the City Manager’s discretion.

Manager Hitchcock stated that there will be fewer rooms available as things start to be moved into the building. She added that the men’s basketball group refinished the floor in the gym.

Manager Hitchcock will have the policy written for consideration at the next Council meeting.

10c. 2nd Reading Ordinance #301- Adoption of International Property Maintenance Code:

Councilmember Hyne commented that she has concerns with the ordinance and feels that it severely over regulates home owners. She also had concerns with leaving things to the building inspectors’ discretion. She also had a concern that a lot of the regulations go beyond safety and something could be abused.

Terri Campbell questioned if this had been adopted a few years ago, would it have affected the property at 501 Crossman.

Manager Hitchcock responded that it would have been dealt with much quicker.

Councilman Hanna questioned if the complainant would be identified.

Manager Hitchcock answered that they would not.

Councilman O'Connell commented that he had not read the code yet and would like more time.

Councilman VanAllsburg stated that he had not read the code yet and would like more time.

Motion by **Hyne**, second by **O'Connell**, to table the 2nd reading of Ordinance #301, Adoption of International Property Maintenance Code until the next meeting. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hyne, O'Connell. No: Hanna, Zichi, Davis, Monroe.
Motion failed.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance #301, Adoption of International Property Maintenance Code as presented. Yes: Hanna, Zichi, Davis, Monroe. No: Hyne, O'Connell, VanAllsburg. No: None.
Motion passed.

10d. Set Public Hearing on Park Property Trade:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O'Connell**, to set the public hearing for the park property trade for Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in a room to be determined. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10e. Budget Workshop:

Manager Hitchcock commented that the Council should bring their ideas for projects and what they want to see done to the budget workshop. She added that she will not be providing any information and that the meeting is strictly to get ideas.

Motion by **Davis**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to set a budget workshop for Monday, January 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers before the Council meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Davis left at 8:17 p.m.

11. Discussion Items

11a. Sidewalk Planning:

Councilman Hanna commented that the area of sidewalk Mr. Eiffert referred to in December is indeed in need of repair.

The Council discussed how to finance new sidewalks and sidewalks that need repairing.

Manager Hitchcock commented that normally the City pays for half and the owner pays the other half by special assessment.

Mike Thomas pointed out the issue with new sidewalks being built and then being ripped up for a project.

Manager Hitchcock stated that the water master plan will be on the next agenda.

13. Staff Reports

13a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report and added that she has received the files from previous City Attorney Joe Cox. She also reminded the Council that the Lighting Public Hearing will be on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

13b. City Attorney:

Attorney Toskey reported that the new cable statutes will be subject to litigation quickly.

13c. Planning & Development Administrator:

Administrator Wilson submitted a written report for Council review.

13d. WWTP:

A written report was provided for Council review.

13e. Police Chief:

Monthly statistics were provided for November and December for Council review.

13f. Treasurer:

A financial printout was provided for council review.

14. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

14a. Legislative Director:

No report.

15. Audience Participation:

Marlene Epley commented that a fund raiser will be held at the Williamston Sun Theatre on Sunday January 21, 2007 with a film called "We Know Care".

Robert St. John reiterated his comments from the previous meeting to furnish the public with graphic material for the park property public hearing. He also suggested that it be put on the City website.

Mike Thomas questioned the appointment to the TIFA Board and added that the reason he is against keeping the ice house is because renovating the building will cost around 2.5 million dollars. He stated that if the Council does not agree

with his opinion most of the members on the board do not feel that way and they can always appoint someone with the same opinion.

Member Hanna commented that if both people have the same opinion one is not needed.

Amy Kelly of Plymouth Landing commented that she would like to work with the City regarding the Tractor Supply Company lighting issue.

Terri Campbell commented that the Master Plan public hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. and added that the Council should wait for the Master Plan hearing results before they make a decision on the Tri-County Regional Growth Plan resolution.

16. Council Member Comments:

Councilmember Hyne asked if the Lion's Club and Jubilee would be contacted about the public hearing.

Councilman Hanna commented that the Williamston Community Library Foundation will be at the Chamber luncheon on January 25th. He also gave the NIESA statistics for 2006.

NIESA sold out of Christmas trees early this year. The First Friday events January 5th were good. Hanna would like to see an agenda item added to the next meeting on how to assign tasks to the City Manager.

Councilman O'Connell commented that he believes the City should have a policy regarding nepotism and how it relates to getting bids. He believes that people already do not trust the government.

O'Connell added that he does not believe that any elected official should have keys to City Hall. They should be checking them out as needed instead.

Councilman O'Connell read aloud an excerpt from the DDA meeting with Mayor Zichi's statements regarding the Williamston Community Library Foundation and the inability of the Foundation to receive tax dollars and/or money from the Capital Area District Library. O'Connell stated that the statement that CADL only deals with other municipalities is untrue. He also believes that the Foundation is correct in changing their by-laws to exclude the municipality appointments. He stated that Councilman VanAllsburg was not the only member that wanted to support the resolution for the Library Foundation. The Library Foundation did not put up road blocks for the library moving in to the Community Center.

Councilman Hanna responded that there has been a lot of miscommunication and the comments made were not as harsh as they came out.

Councilmember Hyne added that she was not dragged kicking and screaming to adopt the Library Foundation resolution.

The Council asked for discussion on the City Hall keys to be on the next agenda.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the Boogie Stomp event held by the Williamston Theatre was a success. The Theatre will be showing "Fully Committed" soon.

Mayor Zichi commented that the world premier of "Robin Hood, The Beginning" was January 8th. He also wished Councilman Monroe a happy 90th birthday.

17. Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 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: _____