

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 22, 2007
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, Chief of Police Mark Hetfield, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, Chamber Representative Barb Burke, MSU Journalism Students, LT. Bryce Alford Ingham County Sheriffs Office, citizens Mike Thomas, Robert St. John, Terri Campbell, Susan Graff, Keith & Betty Honey, Dawn Marie Joseph, Dan Frank, Richard Couturier, Paul Risberg, Brian Graff, and Scott McDonald.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add 10c. Board Appointments, and on item 7., change "Hanna" to "Davis".

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

5. Audience Participation:

Terri Campbell asked if the schools would be exempt from the drafted lighting ordinance.

City Attorney Perrone commented that schools would be subject to the lighting ordinance.

Terri Campbell asked if new hearings would be held for the revised lighting ordinance.

Attorney Perrone answered that the Council would not be required to have two new readings.

Mayor Zichi commented that he would prefer to have two new readings.

Terri Campbell questioned if the street lamp changes are going to cost the City any money.

Mayor Zichi replied that he believes it will not, but he will need to confirm it.

6. Council Minutes of January 8, 2007:

On page 2, item 9. 4th line from the bottom, change “except” to “including”. On page 3, 5 lines down add “only” after “principals” and change “pertain” to “benefit” and item 10b. add “categories of” before “organizations”.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O’Connell**, to approve the regular Council minutes of January 8, 2007 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Davis reported that the accounts payable totaled \$100,733.25 and included payroll, community center renovation, consultants, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 8034-8104.

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

8. Presentation – Betty Honey on City Hall- National Historical Register:

Betty Honey statement: “Thank you very much for allowing me to be part of the agenda tonight.

You have in your packets the requirements for putting a historic building on the Michigan and National Register of historic places. Many Williamston citizens would like our City Hall to be on this register.

Some dramatic plans are currently being pushed through under the guise of progress. People move to Williamston to live in a “small quaint town”. They then want changes that result in a larger town and more taxes.

Somebody in the Williamston power structure may decide our City Hall is not all that great and begin a campaign to tear it down.

Tonight I am requesting that a reliable group such as Mr. Lutzke’s Michigan History Research and Development class be invited by the Council to put our City Hall on the Michigan and National Registers of Historic Places. A plaque could be placed on the building citing the class’s achievement. I truly admire their genealogy about our City. It’s a great class.

Thank you for your time and patience.”

Mayor Zichi commented that Hiram Higby built City Hall and many other homes in Williamston. The Council will need to identify the intangible benefits and tangible costs in keeping the building.

9. Action Items

9a. Police Records Management System:

Mayor Zichi questioned if the records management system is adaptable to laptops.

Chief Hetfield answered that it is.

LT. Bryce Alford, Ingham County Sheriffs Department, commented that the system will work both in the office and in the cars. He added that the only communities that are not participating in the program are Leslie and Stockbridge.

Member Hyne questioned if the system will increase efficiency **and safety and confirmed the funding source.**

Chief Hetfield answered that it will, by allowing officers to enter information while they are on the road and that it has the ability to connect with other police departments.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the purchase of a police records management system for the Williamston Police Department for a cost not to exceed \$32,613.88 plus \$5,664.64 for maintenance as presented. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. Sub-contract for Police Equipment:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to accept the agreement to sub-contract for police equipment per the 2005 Homeland Security Grant as presented. Yes: Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Sergeant's Contract:

Manager Hitchcock reported that the only change to the contract is a 3% pay increase because it has been a year since his hire date with fringe benefits the same as the Council adopted in policy #16-06.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the employment contract for Sergeant Jeff Hull as presented. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9d. Traffic Control Order #21:

The traffic control order is for no parking on the South side of East Riverside Street.

Mike Thomas asked if the City could make sure the curb is painted yellow in front of the fire hydrants on the parking side.

Motion by **Davis**, second by **Monroe**, to accept traffic control order #21 for East Riverside Street as presented. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9e. Community Center Rate Resolution:

On page 5., item 5., last line, change “marshal” to “department”.

Motion by **O’Connell**, second by **Davis**, to approve the Community Center rate resolution #01-07 as amended. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O’Connell, Davis, Monroe. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9f. Resolution #02-07 Supporting the Tri-County Regional Growth Plan:

Motion by **Davis**, second by **O’Connell**, to take no action on this plan and wait until there is a new version of the Tri-County Regional Growth Plan available in the next few years. **Motion passed by voice vote with two no votes.**

9g. Water Master Plan Proposal:

Motion by **Davis**, second by **Hanna**, to approve the proposal for a water master plan from Capital Consultants as presented in an amount not to exceed \$22,900. Yes: Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O’Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9h. Municipal Standards:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the proposal from Capital Consultants to update the Municipal Standards for a cost not to exceed \$5600 as presented. Yes: O’Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9i. Set Public Hearing to Consider Sale of the Existing Fire Hall:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to set a public hearing for Monday, February 12, 2007 to receive public input on the sale of the Fire Hall at 7:05 p.m. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, O’Connell, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9j. Construction Board of Appeals Appointments:

Paul Risberg and Scott McDonald introduced themselves to the City Council.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **O’Connell**, to appoint Ken Schmuecker to the Construction Board of Appeals for a one year term to expire 6-30-08. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Scott McDonald to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two year term to expire 6-30-09. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Paul Risberg to the Construction Board of Appeals for a three year term to expire 6-30-10. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. Council Member Direction to City Manager:

Councilman Hanna commented that he has concerns that it is not appropriate to assign work to the City Manager or her subordinates as individuals. He believes that the City Manager needs to receive direction from the Council as a whole and if one person needs information it should be provided to everyone and if the request for information is for personal needs a FOIA should be used.

Mayor Zichi would like the Council to receive and review the Council policies and procedures.

Manager Hitchcock stated that she will put the policy on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she feels it is necessary as a Council member to receive information to make an informative vote.

Councilman Hanna commented that the Councilmember that needs to look at information should come to City Hall themselves and look it up.

Councilman O'Connell commented that he believes the City Manager can be objective when giving information. If she believes all of the Council needs it or should decide on it, then she should wait for Council direction. The City Council should not have to use a FOIA to get information.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the request for information should be reasonable.

Councilmember Davis commented that this was already discussed and resolved.

Councilman Hanna commented that questions to the City Manager should come before the entire Council.

Councilman O'Connell commented that if the City Manager is having a problem with a request then she will come to the Council.

Councilman Hanna commented that the attorney should also not be called by a Councilmember and should go through the City Manager.

Manager Hitchcock reported that there is currently no policy regarding the City Council talking to the attorney.

Councilman VanAllsburg believes it may be necessary to go to the attorney about the City Manager and that it should be allowed in that instance.

Councilman Hanna commented that if it requires an expenditure of money then the Council should decide.

This will be on the next agenda.

10b. Issuance of Keys to Council Members:

Councilman O'Connell commented that no Council member should have a key for City Hall unless they check it out. He believes that it is inappropriate and is not necessary.

Mayor Zichi commented that he has needed a key to do marriage ceremonies and pick up his mail or sign contracts.

Member Hyne commented that she was told she could not look at a document unless she came during regular business hours and she was never offered a key.

Councilmember Davis commented that she believes the discussions are becoming too personal.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he does not see a problem with Council having a key as long as they need it.

Councilman O'Connell commented that he learned of the key issue a long time ago, and feels that there should be a policy in place.

11c. Board Appointments:

Councilman VanAllsburg questioned what happens with the applications the Mayor does not like.

Mayor Zichi commented that the Mayor appoints with Council concurrence. He added that he does not only appoint people he likes, but people he feels are qualified for the position that is open.

Councilmember Hyne quoted the board appointment policy from 2001.

Dan Frank commented that he does have a problem that the Mayor only submits the names that he wants to. He understands that the Charter allows it, but does not agree with it.

Richard Couturier commented that he applied for three different boards on December 8, 2005 and was never contacted by the Mayor. He added that he confronted the Mayor about why he would not appoint him and was told he was too much of a "good old boy".

Mayor Zichi responded that he said that because he believes that his actions remind him of previous board members and he does not like his general attitude and actions.

Richard Couturier commented that he believes the Mayor has slandered him.

Councilmember Hyne read aloud Mr. Couturiers' qualifications. **Councilmember Hyne commented that even though the charter is being followed she didn't agree with it.**

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock stated that the new doors for the Community Center were supposed to be delivered. The rough inspections of the Community Center have passed. CADL will be scheduling the move of the library to the Community Center.

The Master Plan public hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 29th at 7pm at the Community Center gymnasium. The DPW has found a couple areas of infiltration in the sewer system that need to be fixed.

Councilmember Hyne questioned the exit signs on the floor by the Senior Center.

12b. City Attorney:

No Report.

12c. Community Development Director:

Director Alfredson submitted a written report for Council review.

12d. WWTP:

A report for the waste water treatment plant was submitted for Council review.

13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

13a. Legislative Director:

Councilman O'Connell reported that the state budget crisis may cause cuts in revenue sharing.

14. Audience Participation:

Mike Thomas commented that he has taken two Council Members through the Ice House and welcomed any of the others to walk through with him.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Davis thanked the people who attended the Lighting Meeting on January 18th and added that she was thankful there were people there who support a lighting ordinance.

Councilmember Hyne commented that there are still people who do not want a lighting ordinance. She added that St. Mary's is having a Blue Mass at 9am on January 28th, the Talent Show is February 3rd, and the First Friday's event is February 2nd.

Councilman Hanna commented that the Chamber Luncheon on January 25th will feature the Williamston Community Library Foundation. He added that the public hearing on the park property is going to be on February 7th. The walls inside the Bucket are going up with hopes of being open in May. He congratulated Mayor Zichi on being the longest serving Mayor in the City of Williamston.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that Fully Committed will be showing at the Williamston Theatre soon and encouraged everyone to check out the Talent Show.

Mayor Zichi commented that he has found that the City is missing Council minutes from 1899-1915 and that if someone finds them to turn them into City Hall.

16. Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 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: _____