

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 12, 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, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Robert St. John, Susan Graff, John Pratt, Charlie Galbreath, Larry Wittrup, Cindy Davis, Steve Zaban, and Linda Siciliano.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add 10b. Snow Removal, 10c. Clarification on Park Property Trade Easement, and 10d. Community Center Renovations/Moving City Offices.

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

Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Audience Participation:

John Pratt stated he is the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He thinks it is wrong that the commission has never been approached by **the City Council** ~~any council members~~ about the land swap and that they were not even advised until Monday before the public hearing.

Mayor Zichi stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had not been established when discussion of the property trade began.

Councilmember Hyne stated that as a councilmember she approached Mr. Pratt and asked the Planning Administrator why they were not involved.

6. Public Hearing to Consider Sale of Existing Fire Hall – E. Grand River Ave.:

Mayor Zichi opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

City Manager Hitchcock explained that the building is currently occupied by NIESA. The City holds fifty percent interest in the building. NIESA is building a new fire station and plans to move in the fall of 2007 and would like to move forward with selling the property. NIESA President Charlie Galbreath explained

there was an appraisal done approximately three years ago appraising the property at about \$550,000; which everyone felt was too high. A realtor was recently asked for a market analysis on the property and quoted around \$275,000.

Linda Siciliano, 805 E. Grand River Ave., stated that if the property was sold she would like a family friendly business that improves that side of town.

Steve Zaban, Maple Shade Drive, gave a brief history of the proposed sale. Mr. Zaban recommended moving ahead quickly and not bickering about the price.

Mayor Zichi closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

7. Council Minutes of January 22, 2007:

On page 3, 3rd paragraph starting with Member Hyne questioned add "and safety and confirmed the funding source.", on page 7, 3rd paragraph starting with Councilmember Hyne read add "Hyne questioned the exit signs on the floor."

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the regular Council minutes of January 22, 2007 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8. Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Davis reported that the accounts payable totaled \$176,430.89 and included insurances, community center renovation, consultants, utility bills and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 8105-8242.

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

9. Action Items

9a. Planning Commission Appointment:

Mayor Zichi introduced Larry Wittrup and recommended concurrence with his appointment.

Mr. Wittrup introduced himself, gave Council his background information and stated his reasons for wanting to be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Motion by **O'Connell**, second by **Hanna**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Larry Wittrup to the Planning Commission for a term to expire 06/30/07. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. Set Budget Workshop:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Hyne**, to set a budget workshop for March 12, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9c. Water/Sewer Meter Reading Equipment and Software Purchase:

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **Hanna**, to purchase the Sensus Metering Systems SSI upgrade to the 5000 series to include the stand, autogun and upgrade autoread software in the amount of \$7,700 as presented. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, O'Connell, Davis. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9d. Historic Designation of City Hall:

Councilmember O'Connell stated he felt that this should be a grass roots effort – not coming from Council. Council had not seen any historic information. He would like to see it come from the community.

Councilmember VanAllsburg stated he agreed with Councilmember O'Connell because he feels the possibility exists that the building and property may still be needed for City offices, however Mrs. Honey came to the Council.

Mayor Zichi stated that Council needed to put out there that they are interested.

Councilmember Hyne stated she has the same concerns as Members O'Connell and VanAllsburg – that we need to keep the possibilities open for possible additions.

Councilmember Davis stated she does not want to see the City's hands tied. We need to do a building inventory and show the costs of operating what we have and the feasibility of operations.

Councilmember Hyne stated she felt it would be a great contribution of the history class to do it.

Councilmember Hanna stated that from the standpoint of the City Hall structure, he wants to see it preserved because it is unique and it adds to the downtown. Consensus of the Council was to have

Mayor Zichi approach the history class and request that they research the history of City Hall and make a presentation to the Council on the uniqueness of the building.

10. Discussion Items

10a. Council Policies and Procedures:

It was agreed for all councilmembers to review the current policies and procedures as well as some from other communities and to come to the next meeting with suggestions.

10b. Snow Removal:

Councilmember VanAllsburg stated he thought the City could do some things short of ticketing.

Mayor Zichi suggested the Boy Scout list that was initiated a few years ago.

Councilmember VanAllsburg suggested a community wide newspaper article.

10c. Clarification on Park Property Trade Easement:

Councilmember VanAllsburg stated he was not in agreement with the Planning Administrator and Assessor's suggestion to trade all of Memorial Park to the school and to just keep an easement along the river. John Pratt called him and informed him the school wanted to add a ball field that would conflict with the walking path.

10d. Community Center Renovations/Moving City Offices:

Councilmember VanAllsburg stated he would like to clarify the \$3 million cost of renovation and would like to revisit the intended use of the community center.

Mayor Zichi stated the amount for renovation that he mentioned at the public hearing was high, as he preferred to quote a high number and be wrong than a low number and be wrong.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

No Report.

12b. City Attorney:

No Report.

12c. Planning and Development Administrator:

Administrator Wilson submitted a written report 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 the state would be making their budget announcement shortly. He is concerned that with the replacement of the Single Business Tax there may be reductions to municipalities.

14. Audience Participation:

There was no audience participation at this time.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Hyne commented that the band shall fundraiser was a tremendous success.

Councilmember Hanna stated that he attended a USDA seminar on funding for police and fire stations that was very informative.

Councilmember O'Connell mentioned a letter received from Barb Byrum and requested that she be invited to a council meeting. She is in a position to make a difference for our community.

Councilmember VanAllsburg reminded everyone of the LaDolce Vita auction on Friday and stated the play that is current being presented at the Williamston Theatre is amazing.

Mayor Zichi stated he was also impressed with the talent show and looks forward to an update from the Band Shell committee.

16. Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

***THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Lisa K. Hitchcock, Clerk

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____