

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
MARCH 12, 2007  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Mayor Kenneth Zichi and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Mayor Ken Zichi, Mayor Pro-tem Robert Hanna, Council Members Michelle Hyne, George Monroe, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: Brian O'Connell, and Penny Davis.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, citizens John Pratt, Mike Thomas, Rachel Olson, Robert St. John, and Sue Nichani.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to excuse O'Connell and Davis.

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Add 8g. Set Budget Work Shop, and 9a. River House Inn.

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

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Robert St. John asked why JFM has not been covering the meetings.

Manager Hitchcock responded that they were having health issues.

Mr. St. John asked if they could perhaps send a back up.

Manager Hitchcock stated that they do not have a back up.

Mr. St. John commented that perhaps the media class at the school could start covering the meetings.

Rachel Olson asked if the agendas and minutes could be posted so they are up to date and the agendas are posted before the meeting.

Manager Hitchcock responded that the agendas and minutes will be up to date by the end of the week.

**6. Council Minutes of February 26, 2007:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Monroe**, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2007 regular meeting as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Hanna**, to table the accounts payable until the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Hanna**, to reconsider the Council Minutes of February 26, 2007. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to amend the first page of the Council Minutes, item 3., second line, change "8:37" to "7:37". **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**8. Action Items**

**8a. Resolution for Charitable Gaming License- Soccer Boosters:**

Marian Martin asked the Council to approve the resolution for a Charitable Gaming License so the Soccer Boosters can have fundraisers.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the resolution for a charitable gaming license as presented for the Soccer Boosters. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8b. Request from Habitat for Humanity to Paint Fire Hydrants:**

No action.

**8c. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to concur with the Mayor's re-appointment of Robert St. John, John Pratt, and Rachel Olson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for terms to expire 01-01-10. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8d. Parks and Recreation Commission Appointment:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Phillis Chirico to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire 06-30-09. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8e. Tuck Pointing of Public Services Building:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Monroe**, to approve the bid from Gorton Chimney & Fireplace as recommended by the EDC in an amount not to exceed \$2200 for tuck pointing on the public services building. Yes: Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8f. Pump Purchase:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the purchase of a new pump from Global in an amount not to exceed \$22,800 as presented. Yes: Hanna, Hyne, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8g. Set Budget Work Session Date:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to set the budget work session dates for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**9. Discussion Items**

**9a. River House Inn:**

Sue Nichani commented that they are facing problems with MDOT wanting their two driveways reduced to one. She added that in the past week communication with MDOT broke down. She called the Mayor to explain the situation. They have been working with the City since June on their project to start a restaurant and bed and breakfast. The owners need answers from the City to decide whether this is going to be a viable project or not.

Manager Hitchcock commented that she talked with Paul Steinman of MDOT and he stated that she would need to contact Jerry Swift of MDOT who is in charge of issuing the permits. The problem is the City has endorsed the Access Management Plan and would be against their practices if the two driveways are approved.

Mayor Zichi commented that he believes trucks stopped on Grand River for deliveries are going to cause more problems than two driveways.

Councilman VanAllsburg asked why two driveways are needed.

Sue Nichani stated it would enable the delivery trucks to drive through to make deliveries. She added that MDOT told her the issue was too political and they will agree with whatever the City decides. Ms. Nichani stated MDOT said that Administrator Wilson told them the City does not want two driveways, but the Planning Commission approved the preliminary site plan with the two driveways contingent on MDOT approval.

Councilman Hanna commented that the decision is up to MDOT because it is a state highway and Administrator Wilson has no say in the matter.

Manager Hitchcock commented that the issue started because of the change of use on the property.

Sue Nichani commented that it has always been a commercial property.

Attorney Perrone commented that the change of use and zoning are two different issues. The change of use is what has triggered the issue with the two entrances.

Mayor Zichi commented that the Planning Commission took action to approve the two driveways contingent on MDOT approval.

Sue Nichani stated that MDOT is saying that the issue is too political based on contact from Ms. Wilson.

Councilmember Hyne asked if the City can write a letter to MDOT supporting the request.

Manager Hitchcock answered that Mr. Steinman expressed concern that the City endorsed the Access Management Plan and are not backing it now.

Councilman VanAllsburg asked if the City is having problems with Administrator Wilson not following policy.

Council member Hyne commented that the property owners are willing to invest \$700,000 into the property and would be a benefit to the community.

Councilman Hanna commented that their sign is also not in compliance.

Ms. Nichani stated that they will be going in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals to appeal Administrator Wilson's decision.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he is concerned the City is not business friendly.

Mayor Zichi commented that he wants to make sure this incident does not happen again.

Councilman Hanna asked if the applicant would like someone to sit in on the meetings with the Planning & Development Administrator.

Ms. Nichani answered that it would be helpful.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to have Councilmember Hyne write a letter to MDOT concerning the access issue with the River House Inn and the Council's position regarding the driveways. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**9b. Council Policies and Procedures:**

Manager Hitchcock suggested that a new policy be drafted addressing how the Council currently operates with references back to the City Charter.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she has been taken to task for things that are allowed in the policy. Things have been directed at her personally and she wants an apology. She referred to issues with having to use a Freedom of Information Request to gain information.

Councilman Hanna commented that she is misstating issues and it is inappropriate for Hyne to direct the staff to do things for her.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she wants the agenda on the website part of the new policy.

Mayor Zichi stated that he does not want to be tied to technology to conduct business.

Councilman VanAllsburg asked what the Council's goals are.

Manager Hitchcock stated she will bring a drafted Council policies and procedures to the next Council meeting.

## **11. Staff Reports**

### **11a. City Manager:**

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report for Council review and added she is working on the issue with liquidated damages on the water tower painting and the agreement that the interior of the tower would be painted in November. The company is currently going to start in April and finish in May. She will be holding them accountable for not starting the project on time. Manager Hitchcock stated that she is currently attending the Fraternal Order of Police negotiations. CADL is doing a needs study. The final inspection on the Community Center has been done. The exit signs have also been replaced in the Community Center.

Councilmember Hyne asked what the status is for the sprinkler system.

Manager Hitchcock stated that it is not an issue at this time.

Councilman VanAllsburg asked if there was any possibility that the wrong paint could be used on the water tower.

Manager Hitchcock answered that no, the paint is tested after each application.

Councilmember Hyne asked if the Community Center is now up to code.

Manager Hitchcock responded that to her knowledge it is.

### **11b. City Attorney:**

No report.

**11c. Planning & Development Administrator:**

Administrator Wilson submitted a written report for Council review.

**11d. Police Chief:**

Chief Hetfield submitted a written report for Council review.

**12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports**

**12a. Legislative Director:**

No report.

**13. Audience Participation:**

John Pratt commented that there will be a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Mike Thomas commented that the TIFA wants to capture funds for the impending road and sewer projects. He pointed out that the City will have more of a financial benefit if the TIFA does the project and captures funds.

**14. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he met with Lynn Wilson to talk about the Community Center.

Councilman Hanna apologized for being overly aggressive during the meeting. He clarified that the air exchange cost for the fire hall was \$79,000 and not \$790,000 as stated at the last Council meeting.

Councilmember Hyne thanked Hanna for his apology.

Mayor Zichi commented that he had the opportunity to go to Councilman Monroe's house to look at pictures and hear stories about the City.

**15. Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 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:** \_\_\_\_\_