

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JULY 9, 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, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton, RCRA Representatives Robyn Yarmack and Kurt Zaleski, Theatre Representative Emily Sutton-Smith, and citizens Tim Grossman, Mike Thomas, Patricia Kuptz, Diane Simonds, Brian Kurt, Sandy and Frank Buzzitta, Kevin Smith, Terri Campbell, John Pratt, Joseph O'Connor, Robert St. John, Harriet Dunckel, and Mary Ellen O'Reilly.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add item 10a. River House Inn.

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

Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Audience Participation:

John Pratt thanked the DPW for the fine job they did with the Jubilee and installation of the park signs.

Emily Sutton-Smith commented that there is a misconception that the Theatre intended to take money away from other organizations. She clarified that the Theatre never wanted funding to be taken away from other organizations and asked Council to reiterate that point.

Mayor Zichi commented that it was only a coincidence in timing and it was not the Council's intention to take money from one entity and give it to another.

Steve Allison commented that he is a 2004 Williamston graduate and he is ~~planning to do~~ **did** a Robin Hood film **and wants to do another** in the Community Center gym from August 4-18.

6. City Council Minutes of June 25, 2007:

On page 3, 6 lines down,

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the Council minutes of June 25, 2007 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Davis reported that the accounts payable totaled \$119,133.39 and included consultant fees, legal fees, the Elgin Sweeper purchase, water/sewer bonds and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 8977-9079.

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

8. Presentation from Red Cedar Recreation Association:

Kurt Zaleski commented that they have a year round program. The salaries are paid for by the schools and their jobs require a lot of work that people do not see. People come to Williamston and want to know about the schools and recreation opportunities. There are no cuts that are made and there are sports at the competitive level as well as a recreational level. Everyone can participate regardless of their financial status. The school funds what the RCRA cannot cover. He added that the RCRA would like to have a better relationship with the City and asked if the funds could be reinstated to help support the RCRA.

Councilman Hanna commented that they have tried to get information from the RCRA before and it was not provided.

Robin Yarmack commented that she has brought information to the City as soon as it has been requested.

Councilman VanAllsburg asked if the School oversees any part of the program.

Kurt Zaleski answered that yes, their bills go to the Assistant Superintendent and then to the School Board for approval.

Councilman VanAllsburg questioned if there is an abuse of trust in the system.

Robin Yarmack answered that if someone requests assistance with the fees they assume they need them and with the affiliation with the school they are not allowed to ask.

Penny Davis commented that she is concerned with the fact that the funding cut is \$10 for parents checking a box saying that they are in the City.

Mayor Zichi asked if \$4900 is the amount that would be absorbed by the schools.

Kurt Zaleski answered that it would be absorbed at the end of the year by the schools.

Robin Yarmack commented that the fees would need to be raised.

Councilmember Hyne asked about the lack of communication. She questioned if Yarmack had ever been asked for information before the budget was adopted.

Robin Yarmack answered that never before this year.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she would like to speak with people she knows before making a decision.

Attorney Perrone commented that the City should have a contract for services with the RCRA.

Kurt Zaleski commented that the RCRA's existence is not guaranteed. The school could withdraw their participation within sixty days.

Councilmember Hyne commented that children are important and it is wonderful to offer recreational programs to our youngest citizens. The City needs accountability. The RCRA can go hand in hand with the Parks Commission.

9. Action Items

9a. Red Cedar Recreation Association Budget Item:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Hanna**, to restore the RCRA funding, direct the City Manager to establish criteria for accountability, direct the City Manager to report back by the first meeting in October regarding comparisons of recreational director costs, and direct the City Attorney to draft the contract with financial accountability. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. Council Appointment:

John Pratt, Frank Buzzitta, and Tim Grossman, introduced themselves to the City Council.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that all of the applicants have something to offer.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Monroe**, to appoint Tim Grossman to the City Council to replace the vacancy left by Brian O'Connell for a term to expire 12-1-07. Yes: Hanna, Zichi, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

9c. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Steve Shaw to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire 1-1-09. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9d. Policy on Back Billing of Utilities:

Councilmember Hyne commented that she wants more time to digest the issue before responding.

Attorney Perrone commented that the City has a fiduciary responsibility to collect the fees. He believes that it is easier to see something in writing.

Motion by **Davis**, second by **Hanna**, to direct the City Manager to work with the City Attorney on a draft policy for back billing of utilities with up to a six year pay back. Yes: Zichi, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. River House Inn:

Councilmember Davis commented that the River House Inn sign is still up and they did not get approval to keep the sign where it is.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report for Council review and added that the Theatre funding issue is still under investigation

12b. City Attorney:

No report.

14. Audience Participation:

Mike Thomas commented that he was sad to see there is no one videotaping the meeting and suggested a webcam be put in at the back of the room.

15. Councilmember Comments:

Councilman Hanna commented that he talked to Sandy Whelton regarding the Jubilee and she wanted to compliment the Williamston Police Department, especially Sergeant Jeff Hull on their help with the Jubilee. He added that he would like to see sidewalk repairs on the future agendas.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she shares Councilman Hanna's concern. She added that she appreciates everyone who applied for the vacancies and those that voiced support for the candidates.

Mayor Zichi commented that Mr. Lutzke's class has put together a history packet on the City Hall building

16. Closed Session- AFSCME Negotiations:

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to go into closed session to discuss AFSCME Union negotiations. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Closed Session started at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to return to open session. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Closed Session ended at 8:41 p.m.

Action on Closed Session:

None.

17. Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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

Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor

Date Approved: _____