

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JULY 23, 2007
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 (left at 8:30), Michelle Hyne, George Monroe, Tim Grossman, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton, and citizens Joe Eiffert, Bill Turner, Bill St. John, and Bernie Eckman.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Delete 8b. and add 9a. War Memorial.

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 July 9, 2007:

On page 1, item 5, 9 lines down, delete "is planning to do" to "did" and add "and wants to do another" after "film".

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the Council minutes of July 9, 2007 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilmember Davis reported that the accounts payable totaled \$71,670.25 and included permits, utilities, legal fees, insurance, the purchase of a police car, the payment on the public services building and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 9080-9138.

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

8. Action Items

8a. Log and Tree Removal on North Side of Island:

Motion by **Davis**, second by **Monroe**, to authorize the City Manager to have Bill's Wrecker winch the logs free from the dam and let them float down river. Yes: VanAllsburg, Davis, Monroe. No: Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Grossman. **Motion failed.**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Hyne**, to authorize the City Manager to have Bill's Wrecker remove the logs from the dam and All Terrain remove them from the river bank for a maximum cost of \$1500 with the City receiving a copy of insurances. Yes: Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Grossman, Monroe. No: VanAllsburg, Davis. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. War Memorial:

Bill Turner distributed a copy of the plan for a new war memorial in McCormick Park.

Bernard Eckman commented that the memorial will be made of brick and marble, paid for by the American Legion, and be located at the northwest corner of the park near the river. The memorial will eventually be given to the City to maintain due to decreasing members of the American Legion.

Councilman Grossman asked if this location is acceptable because it is so close to the road. He was concerned that traffic may be too loud.

Mr. Eckman answered that they believe the location is ideal because of its accessibility and it would overlook the river. The location would also be good because the Memorial Day parade stops there.

Manager Hitchcock stated that they would need to place the memorial so it is not covering any utilities.

Mr. Eckman responded that they are having Miss Dig stake the site to figure out a suitable location. He asked the Council to approach him with any other comments or concerns.

9b. Red Cedar Recreation Association Agreement for Services:

Manager Hitchcock reported that she has not heard back from the RCRA regarding the agreement and asked to have one of their representatives attend the meeting.

Mayor Zichi commented that he wants to avoid the City subsidizing Township residents. He believes the RCRA should make sure the people paying City costs are actually located in the City.

Manager Hitchcock will follow up with the RCRA to find out if they have any questions or concerns regarding the drafted agreement for services.

9c. Sidewalk Policy:

A sample of a sidewalk ordinance from Grand Rapids was provided as an example.

Councilman Hanna commented that he wants to address the critical areas now rather than waiting until a plan is written. He would like to see the total area of the sidewalks that are in the worst condition and the cost to repair or replace those immediately.

Manager Hitchcock commented that the current cost of sidewalks is split 50/50 between the City and the property owner.

Bill St. John commented that he believes people will not be able to afford the assessment to their taxes and cautioned the Council to think about it before deciding to fix them.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she agrees with Mr. St. John's concerns.

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Hyne**, to appoint a sub-committee of two Council people to walk through the City and assess the critical areas and report back at the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Members Hyne and Hanna volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

This will be on the next agenda as an action item.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report and added that petitions to run for City Council are available but there is a discrepancy with the state as to how many signatures are needed.

*Councilmember Davis left at 8:30 p.m.

11b. City Attorney:

No report.

13. Audience Participation:

Joe Eiffert commented that something needs to be done to permanently fix the sidewalk issue at the Speedway gas station. He added that he witnessed a Councilmember driving over the speed limit on High Street.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Grossman thanked everyone for their help with Potterpalooza.

Councilman VanAllsburg welcomed member Grossman.

Mayor Zichi welcomed member Grossman and added that the ArtFest is on Saturday, July 28.

Councilmember Hyne commented that the Police and Kids Golf Outing is also Saturday, July 28.

Councilman Hanna expressed his condolences to Mayor Zichi in the loss of his mother-in-law.

15. Adjournment:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 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: _____