

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 26, 2007  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers 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, Timothy Grossman, Michelle Hyne, George Monroe, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, WWTP Director Leroy Smith, City Attorney John Gormley, City Engineers Scott DeVries & Dave Berridge, Auditors Jim Carlson & Shirley Grant, School Superintendent Joel Raddatz, and citizens Robert St. John, Sue Nichani, Terri Campbell, Ryan Sweeder, John Pratt, Carmen Siciliano, Brian O'Connell, Matt Davis, Carl McIntosh, Rob Couturier, Tina Gray, William & Melanie Schall, Rick & Nancy Williams, Karen McGarry, Traci Smith, Richard Couturier, and Brian Fryer.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Move item 11g. to 11b., 11d., to 11c., 11b to 11d., 11c. to 11e., 11e. to 11f., and 11f., to 11g. and add 12b. Accounts Payable Review.

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

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

John Pratt expressed his gratitude toward the Department of Public Works for pulling the branches out of the river.

**6. Council Minutes of November 12, 2007:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the Council minutes of November 12, 2007 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Councilman Hanna reported that the accounts payable totaled \$52,728.82 and included attorneys, consultants, utilities, tornado cleanup, and other miscellaneous supplies and services. Reference #'s 9801-9849.

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

**Motion passed.**

**8. Public Hearing- Property Trade:**

Mayor Zichi opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Manager Hitchcock reported that the property being discussed is the Deer Creek Park, and Memorial Park property trade with the school. Both entities will maintain the areas as public parks.

School Superintendent Joel Raddatz commented that he is looking forward to working with the City to make the park land usable. The intention of the schools is to improve on the old pool area and the dilapidated tennis courts. The schools are limited to using school money only for property they own.

John Pratt requested that the City Council table the issue to have the incoming City Council decide on it.

Nancy Williams of the Senior Center commented that she disagrees with Mr. Pratt. The Council has been working on this for too long and no one has made alternative plans for the location of the senior center if the project does not go through.

Steve Stanley commented that the tennis courts would be great to have functioning again, and would allow the school to host tournaments which could in turn bring people to Williamston. He encouraged the Council to move forward on the issue.

Ken Whelton commented that he would be interested in seeing the boundaries of the asphalt areas in Deer Creek Park.

John Pratt asked if an environmental assessment would need to be done.

Attorney Perrone answered that it would.

Rick Williams commented that as a former environmental inspector he believes an environmental assessment would need to be done before the exchange of property.

John Pratt commented that the building is not zoned for public service.

Richard Couturier commented that he agrees with Mr. Pratt and the Council should wait.

Mayor Zichi closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

**9. Audit Presentation:**

Auditor Shirley Grant presented a draft audit for Council review and explained that the audit has yet to be certified and is not subject to freedom of information requests. The auditors had one finding of the City not having a credit card policy established as required by state law. The audit found the City to be in good financial standing and is doing a good job at paying off debt and managing the finances.

**10. Certificates of Appreciation:**

Mayor Zichi presented certificates of appreciation to Timothy Grossman, Penny Davis, Robert Hanna, and George Monroe for their service to the City as Council Members.

## **11. Action Items**

### **11a. Speedway Rezoning:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to approve the first reading of the Ordinance for the conditional rezoning of the two parcels for Speedway at 206 W. Grand River.

Yes: VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Grossman, Davis, Monroe. No: None.

**Motion passed.**

### **11b. Williamston Road Limit Evaluation:**

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **Davis**, to keep the speed limit as currently established on Williamston Road. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Grossman.

No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

### **11c. Park Property Trade with the Williamston Community Schools:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Davis**, to direct the Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission to move ahead with their duties for the property trade and accept the boundaries for the property trade as presented. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Grossman, Davis. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Davis**, second by **Hanna**, to direct the City staff to have a baseline environmental study done on the property the City is acquiring from the schools.

Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Grossman, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: None.

**Motion passed.**

### **11d. Waste Water Treatment Plant Programmable Logic Control- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the RS Technical Services quote for the programmable logic controls for the Waste Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$76,872 as presented. Yes: Grossman, Hanna, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: Davis, Hyne. **Motion passed.**

### **11e. Credit Card Policy Resolution:**

Motion by **Davis**, second by **Hanna**, to approve resolution #12-07 accepting the credit card policy as presented. Yes: Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Davis, Grossman. No: None. **Motion passed.**

### **11f. Contractual Agreement for Audit Services:**

Motion by **Monroe**, second by **Davis**, to approve the contract for audit services with the State of Michigan as presented for 2008-2010. Yes: Zichi, Grossman, Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

### **11g. Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer Pay Recommendation:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the City Treasurer's stipend of \$2500 and the Deputy Treasurer's stipend of \$2000 as recommended. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Grossman. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

## **12. Discussion Items**

### **12a. Recommendation to Change Parks and Recreation Commission**

#### **Ordinance:**

Manager Hitchcock reported that the Parks Commission has made a motion to recommend that a member of the City Council be allowed to be on the Parks Commission as a Council representative. The change would need to be made by Ordinance at a future Council meeting.

Parks Member Ryan Sweeder commented that John Pratt has been a part of the Commission and they would appreciate a member of the City Council on the board to help promote the Commission.

### **12b. Accounts Payable Review:**

Councilman VanAllsburg volunteered to do the accounts payable until the next financial representative is appointed.

## **11. Staff Reports**

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

Manager Hitchcock reported that the primary election is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>. The process will be difficult with republican and democratic ballots. She anticipates there will be frustration among voters.

Councilmember Hyne commented that she called Ingham County to get the cost of the tornado recovery and was told it was just under one million. She also asked the County if they told the Governor not to tour the damaged areas and she was told that it was a City matter and did not want to get involved with the local politics.

Manager Hitchcock commented that she did not speak with the Governor's office; the command center handled all correspondence.

Chief Hetfield commented that he was asked at the command post if the governor needed to come in to tour the town and he responded that she would only need to tour the town if she needed to in order to issue funds for disaster relief, but the Governor was not told that she could not tour the town.

John Pratt commented that he thinks this is atrocious. He was told by Will Whelton of the Enterprise that the City Manager told the Governor not to come into Williamston the Friday following the tornado.

Manager Hitchcock stated that the statement is untrue.

John Pratt commented that the City took Mike Rogers around.

Councilman Hanna responded that they took him around a week later.

Manager Hitchcock clarified that there was nothing political about the Governor not touring the City.

Mayor Zichi commented that he talked to the Governor's office, but never turned them down for a tour.

**11b. City Attorney:**

No report.

**13. Audience Participation:**

Attorney Tina Gray, representing R & R Fence, addressed Council regarding pending litigation between her client, R & R Fence and the City.

Robert St. John commented that the outgoing Council members have accomplished a great deal and appreciates their service. He added that he knows that the Council receives large amounts of paperwork that have to be digested over a weekend and have had to deal with tough issues.

Sue Nichani asked if she could stay for the closed session.

Attorney Perrone stated that it would not comply with the intent of the Open Meetings Act.

Jane Hanna commented that she agrees with Mr. St. John's statements and added that she appreciated Councilman Monroe's financial background, Councilmembers Davis' and Grossman's zeal, Mayor Zichi's leadership which she believes has been thoughtful and prudent, and Councilman Hanna's care for the City.

**14. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Monroe commented that in the eight years he has been on Council, there has been quite an effect on the City with many changes.

Councilmember Davis commented that it has been a pleasure to serve and will keep track of the Council's progress on issues.

Councilmember Grossman thanked the Council for letting him serve and added that he will remain on the Downtown Development Authority.

Councilman Hanna agreed with Jane Hanna's comments and reminded everyone of the Light Parade on December 1.

Councilmember Hyne thanked the outgoing Council members for their service and added that she has received a letter from Ken Stockwell regarding development.

Councilman VanAllsburg thanked the outgoing Council members for their service.

Mayor Zichi thanked everyone for their service and added that their accomplishments have been a team effort.

**15. Closed Session- City Manager Evaluation as Requested by City Manager, Attorney Opinion Regarding RiverHouse Inn, and Pending R&R Fence Litigation:**

Motion by **Hanna**, second by **Grossman**, to go into closed session to discuss the City Manager evaluation as requested by the City Manager, attorney opinion regarding RiverHouse Inn, and pending R&R Fence litigation, and invite the newly elected Council members to the closed session. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Grossman, Davis, Monroe. No: None. **Motion passed.**

\*Closed Session started at 10:11 p.m.

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

\*Closed Session ended at 12:02 p.m.

**Action on Closed Session:**

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Hyne**, to release the attorney opinion for RiverHouse Inn for public review. Yes: Davis, Monroe, VanAllsburg, Hanna, Zichi, Hyne, Grossman. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**Adjournment:**

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

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:04 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**

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**Kenneth V. Zichi, Mayor**

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_