

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 10, 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 City Clerk Lisa Hitchcock and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited led by Boy Scout Troop 63.

3. Roll Call:

Council Members Richard Couturier, John Pratt, Traci Smith, Michelle Hyne, Carmen Siciliano, Scott VanAllsburg, and Kenneth Zichi. Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Dave Stoker, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, WWTP Director Leroy Smith, Community Development Director Michelle Aniol, Enterprise Reporter Will Whelton, JFM Productions, Boy Scout Troop 63 members Ross Allen, and Allan Slate, and troop leaders Dave McGuire, and John McAuliffe, Theatre Representatives Emily Sutton-Smith, and John Leopard, citizens Penny Davis, Timothy Grossman, Michelle Diamond, Susan Graff, Kerry Trombley, Craig Banwell, Larry Wittrup, Linda Lee-Williams, Clint Tarver, George Burkitt, Robert St. John, Sue Nichani, Terri Campbell, Nancy Williams, Jim & Barb Mooney, Jane Hanna, Dan Frank, Mike Thomas, Dawn Marie Joseph, and Brian Fryer.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Couturier**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Couturier**, to amend the agenda to move RiverHouse Inn to item 10h. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt, Hyne, Couturier, Smith. No: Zichi.
Motion passed.

Vote on original motion: Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi, Hyne, Couturier, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

5. Audience Participation:

Emily Sutton-Smith thanked the City of Williamston for helping to facilitate the project for theatre funding from the State. The grant will go towards capital improvements for the building including sound equipment, roof repairs, and other items.

Manager Hitchcock clarified that the money was not provided by the City.

Nancy Williams thanked Council Member Zichi for his service to the City and for all of his accomplishments as Mayor of the City. She encouraged the new Council to take the time to learn about the City before making any rash decisions.

Bob Buckhave introduced himself and his family and commented that they are buying the buildings at 109 and 115 East Grand River Avenue. He added that they are excited to be a part of the City and thanked the City staff for all of their help in acquiring the buildings.

6. Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem Appointments:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Smith**, to nominate member Hyne for Mayor. Yes: Pratt, Smith, Siciliano, Hyne, Couturier. No: VanAllsburg, Zichi. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **Siciliano**, to nominate member Pratt for Mayor Pro-tem. Yes: Couturier, Smith, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt, Hyne. No: Zichi. **Motion passed.**

7. Council Proclamations:

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Don Pixley for his donation of the City tree in front of City Hall.

8. Council Minutes of November 26, 2007:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to table the Council minutes of November 26, 2007 until the next meeting to allow more time for review. Yes: VanAllsburg, Pratt, Hyne. No: Smith, Siciliano, Zichi, Couturier. **Motion failed.**

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the Council minutes of November 26, 2007 as presented. Yes: Zichi, Couturier, Siciliano, Smith, Hyne, VanAllsburg. No: Pratt. **Motion passed**

9. Accounts Payable:

Councilman VanAllsburg provided a list of the payables. Reference #'s 9850-9877.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Couturier**, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Smith, Zichi, Hyne, Pratt, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Action Items

10a. Speedway Rezoning 2nd Reading:

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance #303 for the conditional rezoning of the two parcels for Speedway at 206 W. Grand River. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Couturier, Smith, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10b. Loitering Ordinance 1st Reading:

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **Pratt**, to adopt the first reading of Loitering Ordinance #304 as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi, Hyne, Siciliano, Smith, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10c. Board Appointments:

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **Pratt**, to table the board appointments to the next meeting. Yes: Hyne, Couturier, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi. No: None.

Motion passed.

10d. Resolution #13-07 Adoption of 2008 Meeting Dates and Times:

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve resolution #13-07 approving the 2008 meeting dates and times as presented. Yes: Smith, Zichi, Hyne, Pratt, Couturier, Siciliano, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to direct the City Attorney to provide an ordinance to amend the dates and times of the Council meetings to the first and third Wednesdays. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Smith, Couturier. No: Pratt, Siciliano. **Motion passed.**

10e. Comments to Michigan Department of Treasury's Fiscal Distress Indicators:

Council members agreed with Member Zichi's statements regarding the fiscal distress indicators as used by the Department of Treasury.

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **Smith**, to direct the City Manager to notify the Department of Treasury of the Council's opinion regarding the fiscal distress indicators in the correspondence received. Yes: Siciliano, Couturier, Pratt, VanAllsburg, Smith, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10f. Set Budget Workshop:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Couturier**, to set a budget work shop for 6:00 p.m. before the next City Council meeting on January 7, 2008. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Pratt, Smith, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10g. Set Date for Further Orientation with Staff and Facilities Tour:

Council will set up dates and times with the City Manager to meet the City staff and tour the facilities individually.

10h. RiverHouse Inn:

Council directed staff to check on the sign issue with the RiverHouse Inn to verify that the posts, sign, and location are the same as the material used before Simmons and Nichani purchased the property.

Director Aniol commented that she will coordinate with Planner Acuff to look at the sign.

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **Pratt**, to direct the City Manager to contact the Building Inspector to find out why they cannot issue the building and plumbing permit and hold the electrical permit until the issue is resolved with the Library Foundation within forty-eight hours. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Smith, Siciliano, Couturier, VanAllsburg, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Council directed the City staff to look into the Liquor Control Commission process for the RiverHouse Inn applicant within 48 hours.

The McKenna contract and Associated Government Services contract will be on the next Council agenda.

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Couturier**, to ask the City Manager to verify previous use and ownership and taxation of the property as it existed previously before purchased by Simmons and Nichani and now under their ownership so the City Council can make a statement to MDOT that this has been and continues to be whatever is applicable, just to re-address and be clear on what has been done and what has been submitted to MDOT is accurate and complete including the existence of drives. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Couturier, Smith, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Couturier**, to direct the City Manager to prepare a letter based on her research and forward it to the City Council and then to MDOT unless any Councilmember raises an objection with it, in which case it will be brought to the next Council meeting. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Pratt, Smith, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

13. Staff Reports

13a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report and added that if the Council needs information that has not been provided, or has questions about something, they should contact her to get the information.

13b. City Attorney:

Attorney Stoker commented that the City Council should adopt rules of procedure that they would be comfortable using. This will be on the next Council agenda as an action item.

13c. Police:

Statistics were provided for Council review.

13d. WWTP:

Director Smith explained his report for the Waste Water Treatment Plant to the Council.

15. Audience Participation:

Leo Sheets commented on the Letter to the Editor in the Enterprise regarding the traffic study. He hopes that the new Council will readdress the issue based on the report submitted by the City Engineer.

16. Council Member Comments:

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that MDOT made Felpausch put only one driveway in, so they obviously believe they have the power to request what they want.

Councilman Siciliano commented that the Council has set precedence tonight with the RiverHouse Inn and hopes that any business that comes to Council gets the same consideration regardless of their interest.

Councilman Pratt thanked the public for electing him and asked what happens with McKenna when their contract expires at the end of the month.

Manager Hitchcock answered that it will be on the next agenda for consideration.

Councilman Pratt also asked about having a press release on a weekly basis no matter what is going on and asked Reporter Will Whelton to get information regarding press releases to the City Manager. He also wants to see the City key control policy on the next agenda because he believes only City staff should have keys to the City Hall.

Councilman Couturier thanked the public for electing him and the audience for their participation. He also thanked staff and commented that his first meeting has been good.

Mayor Hyne thanked the Council Members for appointing her as Mayor and added that she is looking forward to working with the Council as a team. She thanked the public for attending the meeting. She wants everyone to feel welcome to speak on any issue before the Council. She reiterated her goal to work with the business community and encouraging growth.

17. Adjournment:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Couturier**, to adjourn. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:11 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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____