

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 25, 2008
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 Michelle Hyne and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Mayor Michelle Hyne, Mayor Pro-tem John Pratt, Council Members Richard Couturier, Carmen Siciliano, Scott VanAllsburg, and Kenneth Zichi. Absent: Traci Smith.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Dave Stoker, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, WWTP Director Leroy Smith, JFM Productions, citizens Rick and Nancy Williams, Rob Oesterle, Scott Simmons, Sue Nichani, Terri Campbell, Mike Thomas, John Donahoe, Frank Kolasa, Bob and Helen Reed, Donna Anton, Al Wright, Amelia Wright, Dan Frank, Jim and Barb Vandenberg, Brian O'Connell, Wendy Schaft, Marlene Epley, Leo Sheets, Michelle Diamond, and other members of the public.

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to excuse Smith. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

4. Approval of Agenda:

Items 8a., 8b., 8g., and 8h. were removed from the agenda. Item 8e. was renamed to "1st Reading of Traffic and Vehicles Ordinance" and Pending Litigation was removed from item 15.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

5. Audience Participation:

John Donahoe, 2323 Rowley Rd., commented that there are Chamber representatives that attend the City Council meeting and the Chamber would like to see a Councilmember attend their meetings.

Brian O'Connell commented that Council can change decisions previously made at any time. The Council made the best decisions they could at the time. He added that there are always potential conflicts of interest when living in a small town. Conflicts of interest can be resolved by filing a campaign finance report. Members that have disclosed their reports have nothing to hide. He stated that former Councilman Hanna, who was also a member of the Chamber, voted on many items that benefitted the Chamber, such as advertising.

Brian Stiffler, 130 E. Grand River, commented that the Council was elected by the people. E-mails have been going around with negative slander. He added that he shops locally when he needs things.

Mayor Hyne commented that she would like the e-mail from Penny Davis added to the public record.

6. Council Minutes of February 11, 2008:

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the Council minutes of February 11, 2008 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Couturier provided a list of the payables and reported that they totaled \$34,380.83. Reference #'s 54668-54704.

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

8. Action Items

8a. ArtFest:

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **VanAllsburg** to have the City staff proceed with the appointment of a director for the ArtFest with no financial commitment from the City. Yes: Zichi, Couturier, Hyne, VanAllsburg. No: Pratt, Siciliano. **Motion passed.**

8b. Traffic Control Orders:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Couturier**, to approve traffic control order #26 with the date of filing 2-15-08 as presented. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Pratt, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8c. Traffic and Vehicles Ordinance- 1st Reading:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to have the City Attorney revise the ordinance regarding the definition of "excessive" with the 1st reading to be done at the next Council meeting. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Couturier, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8d. Key Control Policy:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the resolution for the Right of Entry to City Buildings Policy as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi, Hyne, Siciliano, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the quote from Secure Lock and Door for the rekeying of City Hall. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Pratt, Couturier, VanAllsburg. No: Siciliano. **Motion passed.**

8e. Repairs to WWTP Tanks:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the WWTP quote from Siemens in the amount of \$13,686 as presented. Yes: Hyne, Couturier, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8f. Fee For Going Out of Business Sale Applications:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to waive the fee for the 'Going Out of Business' application. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8g. City Buildings:

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **Pratt**, to have the Michigan Inspection Bureau and State Fire Marshall evaluate the Community Center building at no cost to the City. Yes: Siciliano, Couturier, Pratt, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. Motion passed.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Couturier**, to invite Mr. McIntosh to an upcoming meeting to have him present his ideas for the building. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8h. Appointment of Councilmember to Parks & Recreation Commission:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Couturier**, to appoint Councilman Pratt to the Parks & Recreation Commission as a Council representative. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8i. Park Plan Amendment:

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the park plan amendment to Section III, Recreation Inventory, as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Siciliano. No: Couturier, Pratt, Hyne. **Motion failed.**

8j. Middle Street Parking Lot Proposals:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Couturier**, to approve the contract with C2AE for the Middle Street parking lot in the amount of \$6950 as presented. Yes: Couturier, Pratt, Hyne, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8k. Police Chief Meeting Attendance:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Couturier**, to have the Chief of Police attend every meeting of the City Council. Yes: Pratt, Couturier. No: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. **Motion failed.**

Motion by **Couturier**, second by **Pratt**, to have the Police Chief or his designee attend the City Council meetings. Yes: VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi, Hyne, Siciliano, Couturier. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8l. City Cell Phones:

No action was taken.

9. Discussion Items

9a. MDOT Meeting on Access Management:

Councilman Couturier reported that the meeting with MDOT went well. He believes there was animosity at first but, it calmed after talking with them. A letter was forwarded to the City and MDOT from Sue Nichani and Scott Simmons explaining that they want to do valet parking. Eventually the driveway would be combined with the library building.

9b. Audio and Video Recording of Council Meetings:

Manager Hitchcock reported that she may have several bids to consider at one of the next meetings for audio and video recording of the Council meetings.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock stated that she will be out of the office at a sewer conference in Louisville. She commented that there was a Labor Committee meeting on Friday. The Laserfiche software has been installed and training has been given to City Hall staff.

11b. City Attorney:

Attorney Stoker commented that legislation regarding the Zoning Enabling Act should pass soon. The Planning Act is also undergoing consolidation.

11c. Police Chief:

Chief Hetfield submitted a written report for Council review and added that the cars parked on Middle Street are parked there legally. He stated that he has talked with the General Contractor about the situation and he said he would try to address it.

11d. Community Development Director:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

11e. Treasurer:

A financial printout was submitted for Council review.

11f. WWTP:

Treatment Plant statistics were submitted for Council review.

11g. Building Inspector:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

13. Audience Participation:

Leo Sheets commented that Williamston is ranked #3 for speed traps in Michigan on the internet and he would like the issue of the Williamston Road speed limit to be re-addressed. He stated that the Council has taken away the rights of people to assemble peacefully with the Loitering Ordinance.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Pratt stated that he has received complaints of people not shoveling their sidewalks. He also stated that he was under the impression that there are

specifications for the removal of the old library building, but was told there is none. He stated that the lights on the City Hall building are still out and he would like to see the total cost of the tornado damage.

Mayor Hyne commented that she was given a tour of the addition to Felpausch and thought it was very large and nice.

15. Closed Session- Attorney Client Privilege Letter:

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Pratt**, to go into closed session to discuss the Attorney Client Privilege letter. Yes: Hyne, Couturier, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

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

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Zichi**, to return to open session. Yes: Couturier, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Pratt, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

*Closed Session ended at 10:46 p.m.

Action on Closed Session:

None.

16. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 10:47 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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____