

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 10, 2008  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 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, Council Members Michael Moody, Scott VanAllsburg, and Ken Zichi. Absent: Carmen Siciliano (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Traci Smith, & John Pratt.

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

Also Present:

City Manager/Clerk Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, Auditor Derek Hull, School Superintendent Joel Raddatz, High School Teacher Ms. Shelley, Enterprise Reporter Brad Ritter, Assistant Wrestling Coach Toby Weston, Developer Ken Stockwell, JFM Productions, citizens Brooke Locke, Melanie Schall, Tim Grossman, Gordan Merriman, Barb Burke, Tom Davis, Linda Siciliano, Lea Estes, Ben Stiffler, Michael Horton, Terry Burke, Frank Kolasa, Harrison Smith, Terri Campbell, Paul and Dawn Marie Joseph, and other members of the public.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Add 11a. Road Paving Issue on Hickory Lane.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Larry Stafford commented that he fell behind the hardware and asked the City Manager when the parking lot would be repaired. He expressed his frustration that nothing has been done and he has not been kept apprised of the situation.

Gordan Merriman of Bill's Wrecker and Radiator distributed a copy of the City's current towing policy with proposed updates and asked the Council to consider them.

Terri Campbell distributed a copy of a Police Department ~~document~~ **interoffice memo** regarding a Saturday Council ~~work-session~~ **special meeting** and expressed her concern that the Councilman **Pratt's** actions were inappropriate. **(See attached memo)**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Moody**, to allow Terri Campbell to continue to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Terri Campbell commented that if the Councilman loves his community he would resign.

Cliff Hart commented that he was representing the Chamber.

Paul Joseph, 2833 Linn Road, updated the Council on the status of the Liquor License for Gracie's Place and thanked the City Manager for her help on the issue.

**6. Council Minutes of October 13, 2008 & October 27, 2008:**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Moody**, to approve the Council minutes of October 13, 2008 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the October 27, 2008 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Siciliano reported that the accounts payable totaled \$156,639.71 with reference numbers 55738-55781.

Councilman Moody requested that a 'Williamston first' policy be on the next agenda for consideration.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference numbers 55738-55781. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8. Presentation of 2007-2008 Annual Audit:**

Derek Hall presented the drafted 2007-2008 annual Audit. He reported that the City had one state violation of spending more than was budgeted. He explained that the bills were not received until after the fiscal year end and recommended budgeting high. He went over the numbers throughout the audit for the major funds. He recommended an increase in water/sewer bills to build up the fund because the fund broke even and if there is a problem there would be no money to cover it. He explained that the City will need to budget for the future for the MERS retirement plan per the state policies. MERS will be increasing their requirements for paying down the City's obligation.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to allow Melanie Schall to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Melanie Schall explained the budget situation in 2000 and how Councilman Zichi and Manager Hitchcock have increased the fund balance since then.

**9. Proclamations:**

Mayor Hyne presented a proclamation to the Angel Food Ministries and also proclamations to the Wrestling Team and Ms. Shelley's Chemistry in the Community class for their help with the island.

**10. Action Items**

**10a. Letter to Residents Explaining Water & Sewer Rates:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to table the letter to residents explaining the water and sewer rates. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**10b. CADL Agreement:**

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the agreement with Capital Area District Library allowing the City of Mason library to participate in CADL as presented. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**10c. Amendments to Rules of Procedure- Committees:**

Under D. 4., delete the second word 'majority'.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the amendments to the City Council Rules of Procedure regarding committees as amended. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**10d. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #311- Rezoning Request for 725/825 W. Grand River Avenue:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to allow Ken Stockwell to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Ken Stockwell explained his reasons for requesting a rezoning of his property at 725/825 West Grand River Avenue.

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Moody**, to allow Tim Grossman to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Tim Grossman spoke regarding the Planning Commissions' interpretation of the 'personal care' definition in the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to allow Melanie Schall to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Melanie Schall reminded everyone that the proposed building was supposed to be built in a mirror image and the plan that was presented previously was not.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to table the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Rezoning Request for 725/825 W. Grand River Avenue until the next meeting and ask the City Planner to attend. **Motion passed by voice vote with Siciliano voting no.**

**10e. Remove Standing Committees and Rescind Appointments:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to remove the standing committees, rescind the appointments and have the City Manager provide a list of committees with what they did and options to replace those tasks. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**10f. Recommend Councilmember Siciliano, and Alternate Traci Smith, to Review Weekly Expenditures and Make Recommendation to Council:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to appoint Councilman Siciliano, and alternate Smith, to review the weekly expenditures and make recommendations to Council. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Siciliano, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**11. Discussion Items**

**11a. Road Paving Issue on Hickory Lane:**

Councilman VanAllsburg reported that he was contacted by Bryan Smith regarding the deteriorating condition of Hickory Lane.

Council directed the City Manager to write a letter to Bryan Smith notifying him of the status, why another area was fixed because of ponding issues, and the plans for the dirt area.

**13. Staff Reports**

**13a. City Manager:**

Manager Hitchcock reported that the water reliability study will be completed for the next meeting. The handicap parking signs are still up in the parking lot on Middle Street. She updated Council on the Community Center status and thanked the Executive Secretary, Deputy Clerk, and Election Inspectors for their help in running a smooth Election on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Council asked Manager Hitchcock to look into having a spot marked handicapped in front of Ellie's Place and having a cross walk painted on Church Street.

**13b. City Attorney:**

Attorney Toskey pointed out that the Charter addresses meeting notices of the City Council and the need to notice all meetings and committee meetings.

**13c. Police Statistics:**

Police statistics for October were submitted for Council review.

**14. Audience Participation:**

Linda Siciliano commented that she received a letter regarding the changing of the Zoning Ordinance and the affect it would have on her property when it was adopted.

Melanie Schall commented that she has never received a response from the City regarding a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Council directed Attorney Toskey to draft a letter in response to Ms. Schall's two e-mails.

Melanie Schall invited Council to go to work with her and see what alcohol impaired driving causes. She asked what it will take for the issue to stop.

Brooke Locke, 519 East Riverside, reported that he attended an MML training regarding the Planning Commission Legislation and was able to receive a guidebook regarding the legislation which he forwarded to the City Manager. He added that most cities are also taking their time to work through the legislation.

**14. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Zichi thanked the City staff for their work with the Election. He also recognized Lynette Preamble, an elementary school dance instructor, for her award.

Councilman Siciliano reported that the Planning Commission will hold a joint meeting with Williamstown Township's Planning Commission soon.

Councilman Moody thanked Dave Okowitz and Councilman VanAllsburg for painting the lamp posts.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that WAHL members visited art studios at the Parks Trade Center in Kalamazoo and he thought it may be a good idea for the Community Center.

Mayor Hyne reminded everyone to thank a veteran for Veterans Day. She thanked all of the volunteers for their work on the island and painting of the lamp posts. She stated that she had the privilege of presenting and recognizing the Odyssey Award winners and added that there are only three awards given statewide and two of them were for Williamston teachers Mitch Lutzke and Anne Wade. She also thanked the City Manager and Deputy Clerk for the work with the Election.

**16. Closed Session- Pending Litigation R&R Fence:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation with R&R Fence. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

\*Closed Session started at 9:56 p.m.

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Siciliano**, to return to open session. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Closed Session ended at 10:10 p.m.

**Action on Closed Session:**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to have VanAllsburg, Smith, and Moody, to meet to with Attorney Gormley and R&R Fence Representatives. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**17. Adjournment:**

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Siciliano**, to adjourn. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**\*Meeting Adjourned at 10:11 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk

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Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

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