

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 18, 2008
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Michelle Hyne.

2. Roll Call:

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

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, and citizen Nancy Williams.

3. Approval of Agenda:

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

4. Audience Participation:

Mayor Hyne called for public comment at this time and there was none.

5. Action Items

5a. City Buildings:

Councilman Couturier commented that he believes that the police department should be located on a main road and not in a residential area. If there was a holding cell, then a criminal would be close to the library.

Manager Hitchcock stated that there will be no holding cell for the Williamston Police Department.

Mayor Hyne commented that she has an issue with the police department being across the hallway from a library and being in a residential area.

Councilman Zichi commented that the cost analysis shows a difference of \$60,000 between rebuilding on the City Hall site and renovating the Community Center that would be received from the insurance company.

Councilman Pratt commented that the needed square footage is significantly less than the available square footage at the Community Center.

Councilman Couturier commented that the current elevator is too small to fit a stretcher in, if needed. He would like to see the senior center on a first floor. He stated that he wants to sell the Community Center. He wants to see the City Hall

building renovated and added on to. He added that there is currently only one bathroom on the first floor of the Community Center.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he has concerns about the senior center, gym, and food bank.

Mayor Hyne commented that she wants to see the City Hall added on to **as an option**.

Nancy Williams, Senior Center Director, commented that when an estimate was received for updating the City Hall and adding on to it, they probably did not take into account that the old library site is contaminated. She added that there is 2 ½ bathrooms on the first floor of the Community Center.

Councilman Couturier asked Ms. Williams if she shares his concerns about the Community Center.

Ms. Williams stated that she does not. The senior center has functioned well on the second floor and they have had no issues.

Councilman Pratt asked Ms. Williams how many people that use the senior center live in the City.

Ms. Williams responded that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the seniors are from within the City limits.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he would like to see the voters make the decision.

Councilman Couturier commented that he talked with DPW workers regarding having to work on the vehicles in the old DPW garage that has a drain in it, but no heat. He believes the 1500 building should have a drain installed so they can work on the vehicles in a heated building.

Councilman Pratt commented that he heard that the school does not want the Community Center because of heating, maintenance costs, and safety.

Manager Hitchcock stated that the school has not deemed the building unsafe.

Nancy Williams commented that the building is not unsafe. The library and senior center are located there, and would not be in an unsafe building.

Councilman Zichi commented that if there is an issue with the cost estimate then the Council needs to get another one.

Councilman Siciliano commented that the Community Center is a solid structure and he has concerns about a private owner taking it over.

Councilmember Smith asked how the City would finance the renovation.

Manager Hitchcock stated that it would be paid for by a general obligation bond.

Councilman VanAllsburg restated that he believes it should be put in front of the voters.

Manager Hitchcock commented that a plan would need to be decided upon before it is put in front of the voters.

Councilman Pratt asked who uses the Community Center.

Manager Hitchcock responded that the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Senior Center, Food Bank, Library, and recreational activities are held at the Community Center among other uses.

Mayor Hyne commented on the Lighthouse Community Church using the building.

This issue will be on the next regular City Council agenda.

6. Audience Participation:

Mayor Hyne called for public comment at this time and there was none.

7. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 p.m.**

***THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Lisa K. Hitchcock, City Manager/Clerk

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____