

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 12, 2009
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 Michael Moody, Councilmembers John Pratt, Carmen Siciliano, Scott VanAllsburg, and Ken Zichi. Absent: Traci Smith.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Dave Stoker, Police Officer Jacob Cortez, Community Development Director Michelle Aniol, JFM Productions, Enterprise Reporter Brad Ritter, NIESA Representatives Charlie Galbreath, William Siegel, Reggie Shuck, Charles Cochrane, and Gaylord Risch, citizens Jane Reagan, Sandy Whelton, Howard Dahlstrom, John Bisard, David Underwood, Rob Oesterle, John Kennedy, Rory and Rachel Olson, Brooke Locke, Bonnie Brooks, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Change item 6. Proclamations to John Kennedy Zoning Ordinance Re-write Presentation. Move item 9f. to 9a. Delete item 10c. and add 10c. Canine Responsibilities Ordinance.

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

5. Audience Participation:

Brooke Locke commented that there were two Planning Commissioners dead set against hiring McKenna to do the Zoning Ordinance rewrite but McKenna was able to change their minds and he believes Council should support that decision. He thanked the Planning Commission for their vigorous discussion regarding the Zoning Ordinance amendment about the Zoning Board of Appeals and as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals he supports the Ordinance.

Howard Dahlstrom commented that he is in attendance to represent the Chamber of Commerce and invited the Council to attend their meeting on January 22 at 8 a.m.

Sandy Whelton commented that she did not make the decision to choose McKenna nonchalantly and she does not want to keep putting off the Zoning Ordinance rewrite. She was against McKenna before but has no doubt they selected the right firm.

Jane Reagan commented that she hopes the Council goes with the Planning Commission's recommendation. She invited the Council to ask any questions of her if they need to.

Charlie Galbreath commented that he feels the NIESA request is being asked for because of safety reasons because it would be easier and safer for the fire trucks to enter the building off of Churchill Downs.

6. Presentation- John Kennedy- Zoning Ordinance Rewrite:

John Kennedy, resident of Williamstown Township, introduced himself and gave Council an overview of his qualifications in planning. He explained that he is not looking for a job but would be willing to help fix the current Zoning Ordinance. He stated that he does not believe the City needs to expend the funds to write a new ordinance and the current ordinance could just be fixed. He encouraged Council to not hire an outside firm to rewrite the Zoning Ordinance and have more involvement with the citizens.

Councilman VanAllsburg questioned if he had read the Zoning Ordinance and whether he knew what form based codes are.

Mr. Kennedy answered that he did not.

7. Council Minutes of December 8, 2008, & Special Minutes of December 15, 2008 & December 22, 2008:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the Council minutes of December 8, 2008 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

On page 1, item 2, 3 lines down, add “)” after “p.m.”

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the special Council minutes of December 15, 2008 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote with Pratt & Hyne voting no.**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the special Council minutes of December 22, 2008 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote with Hyne and Pratt voting no.**

8. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Siciliano reported that the accounts payable totaled \$170,976.83 with reference numbers 55939-56087.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference numbers 55939-56087. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Action Items

9a. NIESA Request for Council Review:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to have the NIESA request for Special Use Permit review be referred to the Planning Commission at their soonest meeting. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to allow Fire Chief Siegel to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to approve the installation of a street light at the corner of Churchill Downs and Grand River Avenue at a common and reasonable cost. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg. No: Zichi. **Motion passed.**

9b. Letter to Residents Explaining Water & Sewer Rates:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the letter to residents explaining water and sewer rates as amended. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Local Preference Purchasing Policy:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to have the City Manager and City Attorney prepare suggested changes to the purchasing ordinance and submit the draft to the Council by the first meeting in February. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9d. Reconsideration of the Awarding of the Zoning Ordinance Re-Write Contract:

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Siciliano**, to reconsider the motion to award the Zoning Ordinance rewrite contract. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the McKenna proposal for the Zoning Ordinance comprehensive amendment. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Moody. No: Hyne, Pratt. **Motion passed.**

9e. Review of Fees:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Zichi**, to direct the City Manager to research, simplify, and assess the fees for review during the budget process. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9f. Appointment of Council Members to Boards and Commissions:

Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A/TIFA 2B: Traci Smith/Alternate Ken Zichi

Downtown Development Authority: Mayor/Alternate Mayor Pro-Tem

Planning Commission: Carmen Siciliano/Alternate Scott VanAllsburg

Cemetery Board: Scott VanAllsburg/Alternate John Pratt

NIESA: John Pratt/Alternate Michael Moody

Legislative Director: Carmen Siciliano

Parks & Recreation Commission: John Pratt/Alternate Michael Moody

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the committee appointments as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9g. Advertising Policy:

Director Aniol explained that that City is paying for a commercial and partnering with businesses to help with the commercial. Director Aniol is concerned that some of the businesses that are participating are not within the City limits.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to allow Chamber Representative Howard Dahlstrom to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

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Council discussed seeing if the Chamber could participate in the advertising as well and ways to continue the advertising.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to have Director Aniol meet with the Chamber and have her report back but to continue with the advertising as it stands. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9h. Middle Street Parking Lot:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to have the City Manager see if grants are available for the Middle Street parking lot project, and if the DDA is interested in taking part in the project and a map be provided to Council by the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9i. Staffing of Committee Meetings:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Moody**, to have Councilman Siciliano work with the City Manager to come up with draft language in the Council procedures for staffing the committee meetings. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9j. 1st Reading of Zoning Ordinance Amendments:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to table the 1st reading of the Zoning Ordinance Amendments until the next meeting and have the City Manager provide more detailed language and have counsel prepare a new ordinance. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to allow Brooke Locke to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. Grants:

Council discussed concerns of not taking advantage of more grant opportunities and the possibility of hiring a full or part time person working on grants. The Council will come up with ideas for how to proceed for their next meeting.

10b. Ingham County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Council will look at the plan on-line and consider it at their next meeting.

10c. Canine Responsibility Ordinance:

Councilman Siciliano commented that the City should have an ordinance to get people to clean up after their dogs. The attorney will draft an ordinance to address this issue.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report and added that the vibration issue on Middle Street has been resolved. A homeowner had a generator running that was causing the vibration.

12b. City Attorney:

No report.

12c. Police Statistics:

Police statistics for December were presented for Council review.

12d. Treasurer:

A budget printout was provided for November and December.

12e. WWTP:

Waste water treatment statistics were submitted for Council review.

12f. Building Department:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

13. Audience Participation:

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

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Zichi wished Larry Wittrup a speedy recovery. He also commended the Fire Department and Police Department on their quick response to the Bucket fire and resulting investigation.

Councilman Pratt commented that he wants 'Sale/Purchase of Old Fire Station' on the next agenda for discussion. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman VanAllsburg commended Police Officer John Haven for his investigation of the Bucket fire. He added that his two resolutions for the new year are listing Council accomplishments regarding better relationships with businesses

and working on the big picture for Williamston. He would like to find out what kind of housing Williamston has to offer.

Councilman Siciliano commented that the Planning Commission will be holding a joint meeting with Williamstown Township on January 27 at 7:30 at the Township Hall. He added that he will miss the first meeting in July. He wished Larry Wittrup a speedy recovery and expressed his condolences to Brad Ritter in the loss of his father.

Councilman Moody thanked the Police Department for their work on the Bucket fire.

Mayor Hyne commented that she shares their concern for Larry Wittrup and expressed her concern for Craig Banwell after the damage to the Bucket. She thanked the emergency workers for their work with the Bucket fire. She thanked the Senior Center for the luncheon she was invited to attend. She announced that the MSU Children's Choir will be performing with the Detroit Symphony. She congratulated the Williamston schools for being chosen as a Silver Medal High School.

16. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 10:56 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____