

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 26, 2009
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, Council members John Pratt, Carmen Siciliano, Traci Smith, Scott VanAllsburg, and Ken Zichi. Absent: None.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Dave Stoker, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, City Attorney John Gormley, Michigan Historic Preservation Presenter Hank Berry, JFM Productions, C2AE Engineer Scott DeVries, Enterprise Reporter Brad Ritter, citizens Brooke Locke, Jane Reagan, Mitch Lutzke, Sandy Whelton, David Underwood, Jeff Markstrom, Eric Genske, Trudy Stevens, GERAL Jeffrey, Rob Oesterle, Bonnie Brooks, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Remove items 7. Proclamation, 8. Presentation- Hazard Mitigation Plan, 12p. City Manager Contract, and move item 12o. Reconsideration of Contract for Zoning Ordinance Re-write to item 12b.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote with Zichi voting no.**

5. Audience Participation:

Sandy Whelton thanked the Council for moving the Zoning Ordinance re-write up on the agenda and asked why they did not say anything before if the Council was so dead set against McKenna.

Bonnie Brooks commented that the Zoning Ordinance re-write has been a year long process and the Council should have been giving them feedback before. She added that she wondered what side of the fence Councilman Moody will be on now.

John Donahoe commented that he is representing the Chamber and invited Council to attend the next Chamber meeting.

~~Jane Reagan, 646 McCauley, commented that the committee reviewing the proposals made a great decision with their unanimous selection of McKenna for the Zoning Ordinance re-write. She added that the current Zoning Ordinance is~~

~~outdated and difficult to use. Ms. Reagan offered to answer any questions Council may have.~~

Jane Reagan: My name is Jane Reagan, I live at 646 McCauley Street, I'm Chair of the Planning Commission and I hope that the reason that the recommendation by the selection committee for the firm to rewrite the Zoning Ordinance is on the agenda is because you all made a great decision a couple weeks ago when you agreed to approve the contract. My understanding is the contract has already been signed and to reconsider it, it seems like it will legally make things very complicated. I just want to reiterate that the committee held two meetings and have considered this recommendation. The collective committee has reviewed this proposal in writing, and balloted secretly after discussing the pros and cons of each proposal and it was unanimous by the selection committee the firm that we recommended to select. In May 2007 we accepted that City's Master Plan, the top priority of the Master Plan is rewriting the Zoning Ordinance. We all know it is old, it is outdated, it is contradictory in many sections, it is duplicated in many sections, it is hard to navigate, three planners have tried to come to our town and work with it have a hard time. You have people come to you directly asking for changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Back in November of 07' within a few months after the Master Plan was adopted, the City contracted a firm to study the Zoning Ordinance. They produced a document a year ago, in January 2008 full of suggestions, or revisions, based on what I just said, contradictions, difficulty navigating it, the lack of illustrations and based on that review an RFP was written, it was written all summer long, any of you could have given input on the contents of the RFP, request for proposals, then in the fall it was released to get proposals, we considered them in two, two hour meetings in the month of December, again, any of you could have given a comment by e-mail, by phone, without fear of attending our meetings and then the process was transparent and very well input. I hope you take no action on this agenda item tonight and that you stick to the decision you made a couple weeks ago so that we can move forward and have a Zoning Ordinance that is 21st century worthy and that is friendly both to the developers and to the citizens so that they can understand it. Thank you very much. I will try to stay around to answer any questions that you might have. I got a whole packet with me, I've got every document related to the Zoning Ordinance rewrite with me and I'll be happy to answer any questions that you have tonight. Thanks.

Hyne: Thank you. Appreciate you being here. Anyone else wishing to address the Council at this time? Okay, there will be a second opportunity at the end of the agenda. I will ask one more time, is there anyone wishing to address the Council at this time? Okay, thank you, moving on.

6. Council Minutes of January 12, 2009:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the Council minutes of January 12, 2009 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Presentation- Hank Berry- Michigan Historic Preservation Network:

Hank Berry did a power point presentation regarding the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. He stated that educating the public and businesses regarding the Michigan Historic Preservation Network is the key to its success. Examples of Cities that have adopted the program are Lansing, East Lansing, and Huntington Woods.

8. Presentation- Mitch Lutzke- Business Development Idea:

Mitch Lutzke explained his idea to develop a series of cultural and arts businesses that would be connected as a series of rooms similar to a structure found in West Virginia. He will continue to work on the concept with volunteers.

9. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Siciliano reported that the accounts payable totaled \$85,420.37 with reference numbers 56088-56145.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference numbers 56088-56145. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Action Items

10a. Board Appointments- Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Construction Board of Appeals, Downtown Development Authority:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jeff Markstrom to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Eric Genske to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Charles Keiser to the Board of Review. Yes: Pratt, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: Siciliano. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Ken Schmuecker to the Construction Board of Appeals. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Narda Murphy to the Downtown Development Authority. Yes: Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Cliff Hart to the Downtown Development Authority. Yes: Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10b. Reconsideration of Zoning Ordinance Rewrite:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to reconsider the approval of the Zoning Ordinance rewrite. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Smith. No: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi. **Motion passed.**

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

10c. Resolution #01-09 in Support of Stimulus Package to Local Governments:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to approve resolution #01-09 in support of the stimulus package to local governments. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10d. Resolution #02-09 Ingham County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to allow Engineer DeVries to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to table the resolution for the Ingham County Hazard Mitigation Plan and schedule a special meeting for Friday, January 30, at 7:30 a.m. in the City Hall council chambers. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10e. Council Rules Amendment to Staffing of Committee Meetings:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Siciliano**, to table the Council rules amendment until the next meeting with the stipulation that members send their changes to Member Siciliano before the next meeting. **Motion passed.**

10f. Zoning Ordinance Amendment:

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

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to send the Zoning Ordinance amendment back to the Planning Commission for reconsideration. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10g. Bandshell Event Policy:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Moody**, to table the Bandshell event policy until the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10h. Amendment to Engineering Services Agreement- McCormick Park:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to allow Scott DeVries to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to accept the revised agreement for engineering services for the McCormick Park parking lot design. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: Moody, Pratt, Hyne. **Motion passed.**

10i. Amendment to Engineering Services Agreement- Water Main Replacement- Putnam, Fuller, McCauley, Irving & Bismark:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Smith**, to allow Scott DeVries to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve option one of the engineering services agreement for the water main replacement on Putnam, Fuller, McCauley, Irving, and Bismark streets. Yes: Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

*Meeting Recessed at 9:59 p.m.

*Meeting Reconvened at 10:05 p.m.

10j. Proposal for Engineering Services- Sidewalk Improvements:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the proposal for engineering services for sidewalk improvements as presented. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Moody, Pratt. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

10k. Proposal for Engineering Services- Middle Street Parking Lot:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Zichi**, to deny the proposal for engineering services for the Middle Street Parking Lot and direct the City Manager to investigate bringing existing lot up to safer standards by resurfacing and submit the plan for the stimulus package and have the City Manager investigate lighting for the lot. Yes: Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10l. Plans for City Buildings and Property:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Siciliano**, to allow Attorney Gormley to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to authorize the use of the parking lot next to City Hall for the Farmers' Market and set a joint meeting with the TIFA board to discuss ideas for the City buildings. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10m. MDOT Handicap Signage Along Grand River Avenue:

Manager Hitchcock reported MDOT stated that the sign for the Deer Creek parking lot is supposed to be installed by Thursday, January 29, 2009.

10n. MDOT Handicap Signage Along Grand River Avenue:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to have the City Manager contact MDOT to find out why the handicap spaces and signage was removed and why it was not included in the design by the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10o. Budget Schedule:

Council set a budget work session for Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Further meetings will be set at the next Council meeting.

10p. Foreclosure Information:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to have the City staff add foreclosure assistance links and any other public assistance links to the City's website. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

11. Discussion Items

11a. Grants:

Council received information on historical grants.

11b. Update on Crosswalks Program with High School:

Manager Hitchcock reported that she has not heard anything from Mr. Raddatz and hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

13. Staff Reports

13a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report for Council review.

13b. City Attorney:

No report.

14. Audience Participation:

Scott DeVries stated that he appreciates the City's business and added that C2AE has four or five staff members that reside in Williamston.

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Zichi wished Boy Scout Leader Ralph Shuck well in his retirement.

Councilman VanAllsburg also wished Mr. Shuck well in his retirement.

Councilman Siciliano also wished Mr. Shuck well in his retirement and added that Mr. Shuck has lived and breathed Troop 63 for many years. He also stated that he disagrees with the City Attorney's discouragement of Council members to attend committee meetings.

Mayor Hyne commented that she used to attend meetings but has been apprehensive recently and respects legal counsel's advice. She added that the Planning Commission may not be aware of what the Council has experienced. She congratulated Mr. Shuck and his wife and added that only 2% of Boy Scouts in the Nation become Eagle Scouts. She stated that some of the young ladies in Williamston had the opportunity to perform with the Detroit Symphony.

16. Closed Session- R&R Fence Litigation:

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

*Closed Session started at 11:25 p.m.

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Moody**, to return to open session. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

*Closed Session ended at 12:13 a.m.

No action was taken on closed session.

17. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 12:14 a.m.**

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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____