

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 23, 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, Council members Carmen Siciliano, Traci Smith, Scott VanAllsburg, and Ken Zichi. Absent: Michael Moody and John Pratt.

Also Present:

City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Dave Stoker, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, Community Development Director Michelle Aniol, JFM Productions, School Superintendent Joel Radditz, Enterprise Reporter Brad Ritter, citizens Dawn Marie Joseph, Brooke Locke, and other members of the public.

Motion by **Siciliano Zichi**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to excuse **Pratt & Moody Siciliano**. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

4. Approval of Agenda:

Remove items 8. Presentation- Ingham County Hazard Mitigation Plan, and 10a. Ingham County Hazard Mitigation Plan, add item 16 Closed Session for Property Purchase MCL 15.268D.

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

5. Audience Participation:

Dawn Marie Joseph commented that she is representing the Chamber and added that the Chamber appreciates the City doing a one page spread for area business in the Enterprise.

6. Council Minutes of January 26, 2009 & February 9, 2009:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the Council minutes of January 26, 2009 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Mayor Hyne asked that the comments be reflected in item 8a.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to table the February 9, 2009 minutes until the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Proclamation- Williamston Community Schools:

A proclamation was presented to School Superintendent Joel Raddatz for being chosen for the Silver Award.

8. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$121,962.29 with reference numbers 56203-56278.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference numbers 56203-56278. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Action Items

9a. Set Public Hearing for DDA Plan Amendment for Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:05 p.m.:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to set a public hearing for the DDA Plan Amendment on Monday, March 23, 2009. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9b. Historic Preservation:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Zichi**, to have the Mayor appoint a community group to do research on a historic designation at the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to allow Dawn Marie Joseph to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Dawn Marie Joseph recommended that they consider putting Cloyce O'Dell on the group.

9c. Revision of Payment Plan Policy on Utility Bills:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Zichi**, to instruct the City Manager and City Attorney to change the Ordinance to allow for hardship cases and instruct Councilmen VanAllsburg and Moody to work with the City Manager and City Attorney to discuss what the hardship policy would be and bring it back to the City Council for consideration. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9d. Ordinance on Reconsidering Fee and Penalty Waivers:

Addressed under item 9c.

9e. Strategic Planning & Goal Setting:

Manager Hitchcock distributed a proposal for an individual to come in to work with the Council for a strategic planning and goal setting session.

Motion by **Smith**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to have anyone with information on an individual contact them or the City Manager to give their proposal for strategic planning and goal setting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9f. Williamston Road Grant Opportunities:

The City Manager updatee the Council regarding Williamston Road grant opportunities in terms of sidewalks and walkways and distributed the engineering timeline, and timeline to get the application in.

9g. 1st Reading of Zoning Ordinance:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the first reading Ordinance #313 as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Siciliano, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9h. Cultural Center:

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

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to authorize 25 hours, or up to \$2500 for McKenna Associates to do data mining for the cultural center. Yes: Zichi, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

9i. Resolution Authorizing City Council to Waive or Reduce Development Fees:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Zichi**, to table this until the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. On Street Parking - Signage:

The Council discussed putting more parking signs up due to people getting parking tickets on non-posted streets.

10b. Service Groups for Assistance:

Mayor Hyne asked that Council members get information to the City Manager to place on the website for resident assistance.

10c. Patrolling and Lighting by Discovery Elementary:

Mayor Hyne stated that there needs to be more patrolling and lighting by Discovery Elementary school due to bad activities going on in the school parking lot.

10d. Evaluate Replacements Needed and Report to DTE/City:

Mayor Hyne reported that the top of the light was off of the post near the Sun Theatre. She requested that a letter be sent to DTE Representative Paul Gantz regarding lights that were not put back up after the tornado and request an updated list of the lights the City has.

10e. Process for Permits and Expected Timelines:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a process for permits and expected timelines for the Council to review.

*Councilmember Smith left at 9:30 p.m.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Hitchcock submitted a written report for Council review and added there will be a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26 to discuss the library improvement plan with the Capital Area District Library. The City has received the wetland permit for the Industrial Park road way. The Safe Routes to School grant will be submitted in March. Manager Hitchcock is currently discussing with Township Supervisor Martin on walking paths to the school. She announced that former Councilman George Monroe passed away.

12b. City Attorney:

No report.

12c. Police Chief:

Statistics for February were submitted for Council review.

12d. WWTP:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

13. Audience Participation:

Brooke Locke, 1145 W. Grand River, commented that Ken Stockwell causes his own problems and he needs to attend to his current tenants. He commented that the City Manager or a City representative should have attended the meeting regarding transportation grants. He stated that the Council should consider separating the Clerk and Manager roles and bring in a new Deputy Clerk that would also serve as a grant writer. Mr. Locke encouraged everyone to look at a copy of the Lansing Visitor Guide to see the Williamston page.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Zichi commented that he was sad to learn of the passing of George Monroe and believes he changed his life for the better.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that George Monroe was a great and honorable man.

Councilman Siciliano commented that the Planning Commission work sessions for the Zoning Ordinance rewrite will be posted as joint Council, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings so everyone can attend. A list of the meeting dates will be available soon.

Mayor Hyne gave her condolences to the Monroe and Dorn families. She stated that the Greater Lansing Visitor Guide has a great page regarding Williamston and the Michigan Travel Ideas magazine also includes a great article about antiques in Williamston and Mason. She thanked Mitch Lutzke for his work on the Cultural Center project.

15. Closed Session- Property Purchase- 109/115 E. Grand River Ave.:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to go into closed session to discuss the property purchase of 109/115 E. Grand River Ave. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

As there were only four Council members present, a twelve minute recess was taken and no closed session was held.

16. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 10:02 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____