

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
MAY 11, 2009
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 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, Scott VanAllsburg, and Ken Zichi. Absent: Traci Smith.

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

Also Present:

Interim City Manager Timothy Allard, Acting Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, WWTP Supervisor Leroy Smith, Treasurer Alan Dolley, Attorney John Gormley, JFM Productions, *Enterprise* Reporter Brad Ritter, citizens Terri Campbell, Brooke Locke, Larry Stafford, Jean Dolley, W Harrison Smith, Paul and Dawn Marie Joseph, Teresa Wood, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to have the April 27th minutes transcribed and add closed session for the 109/115 purchase. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Zichi, Hyne. No: Siciliano, VanAllsburg. Motion passed.

5. Audience Participation:

Dawn Marie Joseph, 2833 Linn Road, commented that the liquor license she is applying for only needs one final piece of documentation from the City Council. There is a resolution that the Council must adopt and submit in order to complete the process. She added that she is also attending on behalf of the Chamber. There were 28 artists that participated in the First Fridays Artwalk.

Tony Conley, 300 E. Church Street, commented that he is interested in having a music festival in the McCormick Park bandshell every Thursday night. The event would be family friendly, and would include local acts.

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to add Tony Conley to the agenda as item 8a. for a presentation. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

6. Council Minutes of April 27, 2009:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to table the Council minutes of April 27, 2009 until the next meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Councilman Siciliano reported that the accounts payable totaled \$131,881.67 with reference #'s 56531-56605.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the accounts payable as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Siciliano. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Tony Conley Presentation:

Tony Conley spoke to the Council about his plans for the Music Festival in McCormick Park on Thursdays. He stated that he wants to serve beer and wine and is in the process of getting temporary licenses from the Liquor Control Commission. He will pay two police cadets to work the festival. He is applying for a gaming license to have a 50/50 raffle with the proceeds being donated to the Jubilee or Red Cedar Recreation Association. He will be using generators for power, but questioned whether there would be any other sources available. He stated that he would be on site during the entire festival. There would be no admission fees.

Manager Allard stated that he would need to work with the Ingham County Health Department for food permits. He added that law enforcement, parking, and traffic control would also need to be considered.

8b. Resolution Approving Exception to City Code to Allow Limited Burning of Tree Stump:

Manager Allard reported that the stump was already removed and it is not an issue anymore.

8c. Consideration of Proposed Purchase Agreement of CSX Property Along Railroad Street:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the purchase agreement with CSX along with the contract for work with C2AE, SME, and Capital Fund, and approve \$3300 for earnest money. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8d. Request to Authorize Contractual Services for Title Commitment, ALTA/ACSM Boundary Survey and Environmental Assessment in Conjunction with Proposed CSX Property Purchase:

Addressed above.

8e. Resolution to Accept Dedication of Loop Road and Related Utilities from Granger Construction Company:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the resolution accepting the dedication of Loop Road and related utilities from Granger Construction Company as presented at the table. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8f. Williamston Fraternal Order of Eagles and its Auxilary Request for Payment Waiver for Community Center Use:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, apply the exception that is used for the non-profit groups per the Community Center use policy for the Williamston Fraternal Order of Eagles for their diabetes program. Yes: Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8g. Set Budget Worksessions:

The Council will hold budget worksessions on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, May 28, at 6:00 p.m.

8h. Recommendation to Approve Award of Proposal for Sanitary Sewer Lining of Approximately 793 Feet of Fulton Street, West of Mill Street and South of Middle Street:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the sanitary sewer lining recommendation from the City Manager and have the City Manager work with staff to prioritize projects and see if the \$400,000 project could be pushed back and smaller projects be considered. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to award the bid to Inland Waters in the amount of \$26,632.50 as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8i. Request for Confirmation of City Manager's Appointment of City Clerk:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to confirm the appointment of Holly Thompson as full time City Clerk per the City Manager memo. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to support the salary recommendation submitted by the City Manager of \$5,000 a year or \$2.40 per hour. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8j. Request for Direction in Selection of City Manager Search Facilitator:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Zichi**, to approve Bill Richards as MML facilitator for permanent City Manager search. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8k. Update on Federal Stimulus Grant Application for Williamston Roadway Improvements:

Manager Allard updated the Council on the status of the federal stimulus grant for Williamston Road.

8l. Consideration of Street Light Agreement:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to approve the DTE Lighting Agreement for street light installation as presented. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Hyne. No: VanAllsburg, Zichi. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Community Center:

Councilman Pratt commented that he does not feel the City should keep the building but understands that the City still must purchase it.

Councilman Moody commented that he wants to look at ideas and costs for the building.

Councilman Zichi questioned when the closing is.

Mayor Hyne commented that she has heard that the schools attempted to work with the former City Manager.

Councilman Pratt asked if the deed issues have been taken care of.

Mayor Hyne requested that Manager Allard contact the school to find out the status of the purchase. She added that she was not present when the decision was made to purchase the building and thinks other ideas should be considered like senior housing.

Manager Allard commented that the building needs roof repairs and will need extensive work on the fluorescent lighting, HVAC, and insulating. He is concerned with the small amount of space the library occupies and the integrity of the structure.

9b. Code of Conduct:

Council received a copy of the Code of Conduct for their review.

Councilman VanAllsburg stated that he does not want to rehash things that happened in the past but has a concern with the Council not debating and arguing with City staff.

Councilman Zichi felt that the Code is not too complicated.

Councilman Moody felt that the Code is subjective.

Attorney Toskey commented that Council may need to deal with personnel issues from time to time and felt that the Code was not violated at a previous meeting.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he felt it was violated.

Councilman Siciliano will work on changes to the document with Manager Allard to present at the next Council meeting.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Allard reported that he has enjoyed his first ten days on the job and it is nice to be back in this position. He appreciates staff and Council's welcome. He is making his best effort to keep up and work with the staff. Hydrant flushing is being done this week. He has meetings regarding the Industrial Park easements. He congratulated Ms. Thompson on her appointment as City Clerk.

11b. City Attorney:

No report.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Pratt**, to reconsider the agenda. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Siciliano**, to amend the agenda to add a closed session for the purpose of discussing the 109/115 E. Grand River building purchase. Yes: Siciliano, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

11c. WWTP:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12. Audience Participation:

None.

13. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Zichi commented that the High School Band has a concert Wednesday, May 13. He congratulated his daughter on being co-valedictorian.

Councilman Pratt congratulated the new City Clerk. He thanked Manager Allard for the work he has done and told him there are some people that he wants to introduce him to.

Councilman VanAllsburg congratulated Councilman Zichi's daughter.

Councilman Siciliano commented that Nick Stevenson will be the 100th Eagle Scout. He also thanked staff for clearing a huge tree in front of his house quickly.

Councilman Moody congratulated the new City Clerk. He expressed his condolences to Attorney Stoker on the passing of his mother. He thanked Manager Allard for his work.

Mayor Hyne commented that she served breakfast at the Sunnyside Café for the Kathy Ellsworth Scholarship Fund. She recognized the Williamston Area Beautification Fund for the work they did on the talent show. She also thanked the First Friday group and wished Mr. and Mrs. Couturier a happy 50th anniversary. She thanked Clerk Thompson for the work she has done and congratulated her on the appointment.

14. Closed Session- Property Purchase- 109/115 E. Grand River Avenue:

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

Council recessed at 10:10 p.m.

Council reconvened at 10:20 p.m.

Closed Session started at 10:20 p.m.

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

Closed Session ended at 11:05 p.m.

Action on Closed Session:

None.

15. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 p.m.**

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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____