

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JULY 27, 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 & John Pratt.

Also Present:

City Manager Tim Allard, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, Community Development Director Michelle Aniol, C2AE Engineer Kevin Feuka, *Enterprise* Reporter Brad Ritter, citizens Larry Stafford, Terri Campbell, Ken Stockwell, Rob Couturier, Joe Eiffert, and Howard Dahlstrom.

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

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add 8h. 250 McCormick St. and 10c. Update on Zoning Ordinance Rewrite.

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

5. Audience Participation:

Rob Couturier, 405 N. Putnam St., stated that his son skateboards and regularly gets asked to leave the place he is skating. Mr. Couturier asked where a suitable place would be to skate without being asked to leave.

Manager Allard stated he would follow up with Mr. Couturier with suggestions.

This will be on the next agenda as an action item with a report from the City Manager after he talks with the school and Police Chief.

Mr. Couturier also stated that a quarter of the fence is done on his property per the agreement. He anticipated that the fence will be done by the deadline of July 31st.

Bev O'Malia, 2875 Bravender Rd., commented that she owns the building next to 109 E. Grand River and is concerned that the 109 building is in disrepair and is affecting her building. There is a common stairway between the buildings. She asked what the City is doing about the building.

Mayor Hyne responded that they are currently working with Steve Eyke to purchase the building and renovate it. She added that they will be discussing various aspects of the building during the meeting.

Steve Eyke commented that he will be present during the meeting to address any questions regarding 109/115 E. Grand River.

Joe Eiffert, 715 N. Putnam St., asked what happened to the City partnering with the County to put in water main and a hydrant on North Putnam Street.

Manager Allard stated that the project is still supposed to be done this year and will contact Mr. Eiffert with a timeline.

Mr. Eiffert commented that the Police Department needs to enforce 'no parking' over the sidewalk, particularly at 225 South Putnam Street. He added that there are also many trailers associated with landscaping businesses that do not have lights on their trailers.

Terri Campbell, 308 Fulton St., asked where the contract is that was approved on May 11th with Inland Waters Pollution, for the lining of the sewers on Fulton Street.

Manager Allard responded that the contract is currently with the contractor to be signed. He stated that there is no harm in the loss of time, but it will get done soon.

Ms. Campbell asked if everything gets date stamped at City Hall.

Manager Allard answered that it does.

6. Council Minutes of July 13, 2009:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Smith**, to approve the July 13, 2009 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$72,542.57 with reference #'s 56857-56905.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 56857-56905. Yes: Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Request from Kenneth Stockwell Re: 825 W. Grand River:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to allow Kenneth Stockwell to speak. **Motion passed by voice vote with Pratt voting no.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to have a meeting take place with Kenneth Stockwell, the Planning Commission Chair or designee, City Manager, and Planning Administrator to discuss the situation at Mr. Stockwell's building to be held within ten business days. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8b. Consideration of proposed terms for Habitat for Humanity lease renewal:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to get a punchlist from DPW and City Manager of problems with the 1500 building and instruct the City Manager to approach Habitat for Humanity and establish an appropriate rate per square foot and then instruct the City Manager to prepare a potential lease in coordination with the legal team. Yes: Hyne, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8c. Recommendation concerning removal of condemned portion of 109/115 building:

The Council directed the City Manager to proceed as discussed by sending a letter to the property owner to demolish the addition, and block the alley.

8d. Recommendation regarding improvement of S. Circle Drive, east of Blossom Drive, and Hickory Lane:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to direct the staff to proceed with the process as presented. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8e. Recommendation to sell surplus vehicles:

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Siciliano**, accept the bids totaling \$9100 for the sale of vehicles to the highest bidders. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8f. Staff update on 109 Building project and pending MEDC grant application:

Manager Allard and Steve Eyke updated the Council on the status of the MEDC grant application.

No action was taken.

8g. Consideration of dates to conduct Budget work session:

The budget work session will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 with the suggested location of the NIESA meeting room.

8h. 250 McCormick Street hazardous tree:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Smith**, to find and declare a hazardous situation on 250 McCormick Street and require the property owner, as provided in Section 10.9 of the City Charter, to remove an existing damaged tree within 14 days to prevent the possibility of the tree falling onto the City's wastewater treatment plant property. **Yes: Hyne, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Status report on Drainage Agreement for Centurion Medical Products Corporation concerning Progress Court EDA project in the Williamston I-96 Industrial Park:

Manager Allard reported that the drainage agreement has been presented to Centurion Medical Products for approval. He has received a phone call from the Ingham County Drain Commission regarding the addition of some items to the drainage agreement. Attorney Gormley and Wolverine Engineering believe these items do not need to be added to the agreement. Manager Allard will look into this further.

-Zichi left at 9:30 p.m.

9b. Verbal report from City Manager regarding pending Rotary Club grant for bike:

Manager Allard reported that the Rotary Club has donated \$1,200 for a bicycle for Police patrol in the downtown. There is currently a Police Officer with bicycle training. The City is hoping to be able to purchase two bicycles.

9c. Update on the Zoning Ordinance rewrite:

The next Zoning Ordinance rewrite work session is Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council chambers.

10. Correspondence Received/Information Only

10b. Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds for Ingham County Housing Commission's CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation Programs for Ingham County:

Mayor Hyne requested that when the grant is available, the information should be posted on the City's website.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Allard reported that Kathy McGraw of JFM has quit recording the meetings effective immediately. City staff is currently looking into alternatives. The bandshell logo should be placed on the bandshell this week. The City Hall improvements are nearly completed. The improvements include brick work, painting, flower beds, and various other repairs.

11b. City Attorney:

Attorney Toskey reminded the City Council that a basic agreement with the developers for the 109 building was developed. There were many questions about the project and there has not been a purchase agreement done yet.

11c. Police Chief:

Written statistics were provided to the Council for review.

11d. City Clerk:

Clerk Thompson reported that Council petitions are available at City Hall and are due August 11th at 4:00 p.m. She also reported that the Chamber First Fridays is holding Dog Days August 7 & 8 and a Shelter Donation booth will be set up at Limner Press to accept donations for the Ingham County Animal Shelter.

12. Audience Participation:

Howard Dahlstrom commented that the Chamber First Friday is Dog Days on August 7 & 8.

13. Council Member Comments:

Councilman VanAllsburg congratulated Manager Allard on being hired as City Manager. He reported that the Artisan Circle from Old Town has decided to move to Williamston. He added that Paul Nielson was awarded the National Coach of the Year Award.

Councilman Siciliano thanked everyone for their congratulations on the birth of his son. He stated that his name is Thomas Arthur. He congratulated Councilman Zichi's daughter on her wedding. He also questioned the status of the Boy Scouts using the old fire hall for the haunted house.

Councilmember Smith commented that she believes it would be easier if the City Manager or City Clerk bring the stack of accounts payable to the meeting so questions can be asked and confirmed during the meeting.

Mayor Hyne thanked Manager Allard for accepting the position and working through the contract. She thanked the Police Department for holding the golf outing and thanked staff for their work on the EDA grant. She thanked the Rotary for the bicycle grant, and the Vandenberg's for their donation to the bandshell. She thanked Elizabeth Williams for her work on the City Hall flower beds. She stated that the Dog Days is a huge event. She also reported that Mount Hope Church is accepting backpacks and school supplies.

16. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 10:06 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____