

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

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 Tim Allard, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, Community Development Director Michelle Aniol, C2AE Engineer Scott DeVries, Deputy Treasurer Geral Jeffrey, Auditor Derek Hall, and citizens Terri Campbell, Larry Stafford, Andy Simmons, Phillis Chirico, Richard Couturier, Teresa Wood, Doug Price, John Kennedy, Donald Allen Jr., Lance Werner, Linda Siciliano, Greg Krantz, Marge Bossenberg, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add 10a. Presentation by Jim Jabarra, move item 11b. to 10d., add 10e. Set Public Hearing for TIFA 2B Plan Amendment, add 11c. Status of Police Negotiations, 11d. Signing of City Council Proclamations, and 11e. Political Sign Removal.

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

5. Audience Participation:

Andy Simmons, 3085 N. Williamston Road, commented that some of his political signs were removed and he did not receive written notice. He is unhappy with the way the City handled things and believes they improperly pulled the signs without notice.

Donald Allen introduced himself as a judge from Mason and gave his background information.

Teresa Wood commented that she is attending to represent the Chamber of Commerce.

6. Presentation by Capital Area District Library Director- Lance Werner:

Lance Werner introduced himself as the new Library Director for the Capital Area District Library and commented that he looks forward to working with Williamston. CADL is going to be asking the voters for a renewal of their current millage.

7. Audit presentation by Michigan Department of Treasury for Fiscal Year ending 6/30/09:

Derek Hall, State Auditor, presented the Council with the audit for fiscal year ending 6/30/09. He stated that the audit produced two concerns that should be addressed as stated in the schedule of findings and responses listed in the audit. The water/sewer billing area should

be expanded to include another person in the process to make sure the same person is not issuing water bills, adjusting water bills, taking in water bills, and balancing water bills. The other concern was that the City spent more than was in their budget in three areas. A grant that came in for the Theatre and bills that came in after the fiscal year end caused the overages in the budget. He stated that these were minor concerns and could not be avoided.

8. Council Minutes of October 12, 2009:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the Council minutes of October 12, 2009 as presented at the table. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$817,959.90 with reference #'s 57175-57262.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Smith**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 57175-57262. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Action Items

10a. Presentation by Jim Jabarra:

Jim Jabarra introduced himself and informed Council that he would like to see the City stream the meetings live on the website. He stated that his business would like to assess the City's current equipment and give some suggestions for upgrades. He provided the City a proposal for consulting services.

10b. Recommendation to award a video recoding services contract to mc2 for public meetings:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to table the proposal from mc² until the City Manager can sit down with Jim Jabarra and go over his proposal.

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Siciliano**, to recognize Jim Jabarra. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Jim Jabarra stated that he would provide a camera for free to record the next meeting to allow the public to view it on the public access channel.

Vote on the motion: Yes: Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Hyne, Moody. No: Zichi. **Motion passed.**

10c. Pawnbroker Licensing:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the proposed license procedures presented, the draft application and license fee currently of \$300 that could be changed annually. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10d. Tree Sculpture Festival developments:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to recognize Phillis Chirico. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Phillis Chirico reported on the progress the committee has made on the tree sculpture festival.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to approve up to \$15,000 to sponsor the Williamston tree sculpture festival December 4-6 with the idea that all the money may not be needed and to work in coordination with the committee that reports back to the City Council. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10e. Set Public Hearing for TIFA 2B:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to set the public hearing for the TIFA 2B Plan Amendment on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:05 p.m. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

11. Discussion Items

11a. Granger - change in recycling program:

Manager Allard reported that Granger intends to eliminate all glass recycling and substitute it with cardboard and box board. They will be notifying their customers of the change.

11b. Developing plans for handicap parking on Grand River Avenue in downtown area:

Director Aniol reported that the Downtown Development Authority will consider at their next meeting the sending out of a request for proposals for a handicap parking plan in the downtown.

11c. Update on Police Force Negotiations:

Attorney Toskey stated that she does not know if the execution of the document for the Fraternal Order of Police terms has been extended. She will check on it and report back to Council.

11d. Signing of City Council Proclamations:

Councilmember Smith commented that because the Council is distributing so many proclamations, she would like to see them signed only by the Mayor when appropriate. She felt that it was not professional to send out half signed proclamations.

11e. Political Sign Removal:

Manager Allard explained that there was a written complaint regarding the removal of political signs and the Police Department removed any political signs in the right of way.

Council members expressed their frustration with the removal of several political yard signs throughout the City. They felt that the candidates or homeowners should have been notified of the issue rather than the signs being pulled and taken to the Police station.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to recognize John Kennedy. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

John Kennedy cited the Zoning Ordinance saying that the City should have issued a letter to the homeowner with a warning.

Attorney Toskey stated that the Zoning Ordinance only refers to signs on private property. In

this case the City is the owner of the property and it can be removed immediately.

Manager Allard stated that he will work with the police department to come up with a better way of notifying the residents or candidates that their signs are in the City right of way.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to recognize Campbell. **Motion passed by voice vote with Pratt voting no.**

Terri Campbell commented that some of her signs were pulled and she believes there needs to be criteria for pulling signs in the right of way.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Pratt**, to recognize Simmons. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Andy Simmons commented that he was angry that his signs were pulled without any notice and would appreciate pictures of where the signs were so he can get them back to the supporters. He also commented that his intention was not to waste the City Council and City Manager's time on this issue.

13. Staff Reports

13a. City Manager:

Manager Allard reported that the Industrial Park Progress Court is nearly completed. Two change orders have been needed for unexpected circumstances with the project. He anticipates there will be enough in the grant to cover the change orders. Centurion Medical Products was hooked up to the water system on September 25th. He is hoping the roads will be completed by November 15th. The phase one environmental study has been completed and provided to the City for 781 Progress Court. The purchase of the building is conditional upon a satisfactory building inspection. The damaged ash trees in McCormick Park have been taken down leaving 10 piles of brush to be disposed of. He thought they could be either chipped or burned.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to add controlled burn as an action item to the agenda. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to allow the City Manager to take the steps to make a controlled burn of the brush in McCormick Park in conjunction with NIESA and notice in the newspaper. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Manager Allard reported that the steps on the back of the bandshell do not meet code and are currently being reconstructed due to mistakes made by the building department and contractor.

Council directed the City Manager to write a letter to the building department expressing the Council's concern with their lack of action in addressing the issue and the cost of the mistake.

Manager Allard reported that there is an increasing problem with graffiti in the bandshell. The Parks and Recreation Commission have voted to decrease the hours the park is open from midnight to 10:00 p.m.

13b. City Attorney:

No report.

13c. Building Inspection Report:

A written report was provided for Council review.

13d. Planning & Development Administrator:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

14. Audience Participation:

Phillis Chirico commented that there was damage done to the Community Center too and asked if maybe there should be more done to highlight the issues to the public.

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilmember Smith suggested that there be an article in the Enterprise encouraging people to take pride in their community.

Councilman Pratt commented that they should expand the neighborhood watch program. He added that the police officer that attends the meetings should be in uniform.

Councilman VanAllsburg thanked Councilman Pratt for bringing in Jim Jabarra. The Williamston Theatre is having a poker tournament at Trippers.

Councilman Siciliano encouraged everyone to go to the Boy Scout Haunted House at the old fire station. He also encouraged Council to attend the last Zoning Ordinance work session. He stated that he hopes everyone conducts themselves well regardless of how the election turns out.

Councilman Moody apologized for getting upset during the political sign discussion.

Mayor Hyne thanked staff and DPW for their work. She also thanked Officers Pelong and Kim for their work with the Neighborhood Watch Program. She commented that she was able to have lunch at the Senior Center and attended the NIESA Open House. She also attended the Bekum Open House and the Soccer Field dedication. She will hold a coffee hour at Ellie's Country Kitchen from 9am to 10pm.

15. Closed Session- Purchase of Real Property:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to go into closed session to discuss the purchase of real property. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Council recessed at 11:20 p.m.

Council reconvened at 11:28 p.m.

Closed Session started at 11:28 p.m.

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

vote.

Closed Session ended at 11:56 p.m.

Action on Closed Session:

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Zichi**, to amend the agenda to include action on the addition of the 109 building. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Zichi**, to award the contract to Steve Eyke for the one story addition demolition for an amount not to exceed \$21,000 to include sealed drawings. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Moody**, to direct the Attorney to proceed as discussed in closed session. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

16. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 a.m.**

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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____