

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 9, 2009
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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, and Scott VanAllsburg. Absent: Ken Zichi.

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, *Enterprise* Reporter Brad Ritter, and citizens Terri Campbell, Howard Dahlstrom, Todd Carlisle, Steve Eyke, Ben Stiffler, Andy Simmons, Sean Barrett, Rob Oesterle, David Underwood, and other members of the public.

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

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add 11b. Downtown Street Lighting and on 10b., change "resolution" to "ordinance".

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

5. Public Hearing concerning Downtown Development Authority Plan Amendment:

Mayor Hyne opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Director Aniol reported on the changes to the DDA Plan.

Mayor Hyne called for public comment at this time and there was none.

Mayor Hyne closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

6. Public Hearing concerning Signature and Façade Improvement grants for 109-115 E. Grand River Avenue properties throughout the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Community Development Block Grant Program- Intent to Submit:

Mayor Hyne opened the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Mayor Hyne called for public comment at this time and there was none.

Mayor Hyne closed the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

7. Audience Participation:

Sean Barrett distributed his proposal for video recording the Council meetings.

Howard Dahlstrom stated he is present to represent the Chamber.

8. Council Minutes of October 26, 2009:

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

Add when Councilman Pratt arrived and delete "Interim" under "Also Present".

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to approve the Closed Session Council minutes of October 26, 2009 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

9. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$79,597.29 with reference #'s 57263-57322.

Council postponed the payment of the McKenna bill for Community Development Services until the next meeting.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to approve the accounts payable as amended, reference #'s 57263-57322. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

10. Action Items

10a. Appeal of Mrs. Tracy Maher to reduce water/sewer billing liability:

Manager Allard reported that the issue has been resolved.

10b. Downtown Development Authority Plan Amendment Ordinance:

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Smith**, to table the first reading of the DDA Plan ordinance until the next meeting with the understanding that the Community Development Director will submit resident's names to the City Manager to distribute to the Council so the Council can appoint a Downtown Development Citizens Council. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10c. Michigan Economic Development Corporation Community Development Block Grant Resolution:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the resolution for the 2009 Michigan Economic Development Corporation Community Development Block Grant Application for a Downtown Signature Building and Façade Improvement Job Creation Project as presented. Yes: Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10d. Appointment of City Manager as street administrator for purposes of Act 51 major street funding:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the resolution appointing the City Manager as Street Administrator for the purposes of Act 51 Major Street funding as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

10e. Appointment of City Committee with respect to communication with Williamston Community Schools regarding City interest and properties:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint the City Manager, Robert Scheuerman, W Harrison Smith, Dawn Marie Joseph, Councilman Pratt, and Councilmember Smith to the

committee to meet with the Williamston Community Schools regarding the City interest and properties. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10f. Proposal to video tape City Council meetings:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to recognize Mr. Barrett. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Mr. Barrett offered to record the next Council meeting free of charge to demonstrate what his recording equipment is capable of.

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to table this issue until the new City Council is seated and make an offer to MC², Six String Place, and Jim Jabarra that they can record the next three meetings free of charge to show the Council what the quality of their work is. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

11. Discussion Items

11a. Middle Street Parking Lot:

Council directed Manager Allard to work with the City Attorney for the use of parking lot similar to the Methodist Church agreement for maintenance and come up with a reasonable plan to report back to the City Council. Have C2AE scale back the original plan at no cost to the City without expansion to the east.

11b. Downtown Street Lighting:

Councilman Siciliano reported that during the Planning Commission public hearing for the Zoning Ordinance they discussed the low intensity of the decorative lamps in the downtown. The people at the public hearing thought the lights were a little dim.

The City Council directed the City Manager to contact Mr. Gantz from DTE to get a proposal for increasing the downtown lighting by three times.

13. Staff Reports

13a. City Manager:

Manager Allard reported that Attorney McKinnon submitted the pawnbroker license and precious metals applications and they are currently being processed by City staff. He stated that the Tree Sculpture Festival planning is going well and the committee is meeting every Monday at 4:00 p.m. to work on it. They have received \$5,000 in donations already. He is looking into other options to get rid of the brush in McCormick Park and may still consider chipping as an option. The Boy Scout Haunted House went well with the Boy Scouts raising nearly as much money as last year. The DPW will be working on the holiday lighting beginning November 16th. The City is working to sell excess equipment to clean out the garages. He is working with the City Clerk to gather information for the newly elected Council members. The EECBG grant submission was filed on time. The City received a \$2,000 grant for trees. The Progress Court project is going well and he anticipates that all overage costs will be covered by the grant. Manager Allard also stated that NIESA contacted him and expressed their concern that there has not been consistent representation at the NIESA meetings.

13b. City Clerk:

A written report was provided for Council review.

13c. City Attorney:

No report.

13d. Police Chief:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

14. Audience Participation:

Dave Underwood asked if the City could use DPW for chipping the branches in McCormick Park. He also asked what happened to the leaf machine.

Manager Allard responded that there are currently only five DPW staff and they are very busy with leaf pickup and other projects. He added that the leaf machine has broken and cannot be repaired.

Rob Oesterle commented that NIESA would like to have both the Council representative and alternate attend the NIESA meetings so they are both informed about what is happening.

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilmember Smith asked Manager Allard if he is looking for a new DPW Director.

Manager Allard responded that he is and hopes to have someone by the end of the year.

Councilman Siciliano reported that the Planning Commission held their public hearing for the drafted Zoning Ordinance and it went well.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the Tree Sculpture Festival is going very well, and believes that the Festival may be able to be something that is held annually.

Councilman Pratt complimented the DPW on their great work on the leaf pickup. He also thanked the people that came out to vote and stated that he believes there should be a uniformed officer at the meetings.

Councilman Moody thanked the voters for electing him. He stated that there are new ethics rules for cities that he would like Williamston to look at. This will be on the next agenda.

Mayor Hyne thanked the Boy Scouts for the haunted house, and Councilman VanAllsburg for his excitement with the Tree Sculpture Festival. She thanked the voters for the huge turn out and was humbled by the results.

16. Closed Session- To Consider the Lease of Real Property:

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

Council recessed at 9:39 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

Closed Session started at 9:55 p.m.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Smith**, to return to open session. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Closed Session ended at 10:56 p.m.

17. Action on Closed Session:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to amend the agenda to add the 109 building demolition issue. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the contract with C2AE for sealed drawings in an amount not to exceed \$2500 and adjust the approval for Steve Eyke's proposal for a not to exceed amount of \$19,000. Yes: Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

18. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 10:57 p.m.**

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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____