

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 23, 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, 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, McKenna Representative Jim Breukman, and citizens Larry Wittrup, Sandy Whelton, Bonnie Brooks, Jane Reagan, Tim Grossman, Brad Davidson, John Kennedy, Jackie Wheeler, Carl McIntosh, Randy Pail, Lea Estes, Larry Stafford, Robert Reed, Terri Campbell, Sean Barrett, and other members of the public.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**5. Audience Participation:**

Carl McIntosh, 1145 Wild Cherry Dr., commented that he received a letter in the mail Friday regarding the changes to the Zoning Ordinance from Zeb Acuff regarding the house he is purchasing at 530 W. Grand River. He questioned that in the purchase of this home he was hoping to open an office there and is hoping to retire and sell it as a residence when he is finished with it or be able to live in the house when he is retired. He was also concerned with the spot zoning around Mechanic Street. He showed Council on the Zoning map the differences in zoning in the same areas. He feels it is a real contradiction in what's necessary for this zoning, which is spot zoning all the way down the street.

Robert Reed, 518 W. Grand River Ave., commented that he is concerned about the zoning change to his property which is a house/office. He purchased the property as a house in 1989. It has been unoccupied as an office for well over a year. Because of financing reasons many people can only buy the property as a house. If the City says they cannot sell the property as a house then it hurts their chances of selling the property. He stated that the City would be taking their retirement away from them. He commented that when he was on the township Planning Commission they never spot zoned. He wants to be able to sell the building as an office or residential. He was also concerned with spot zoning. He doesn't feel it detracts from the area either as an office or house.

Jackie Wheeler stated she is present to represent the Chamber.

**6. Council Minutes of November 9, 2009:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the Council minutes of November 9,

2009 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

The accounts payable totaled \$187,558.00 with reference #'s 57323-57406.

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Moody**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 57323-57406. Yes: Moody, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

**8. Action Items**

**8a. Appointment of Downtown Development Authority Citizens Council:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the list of Downtown Development Citizens Council as Robin Moore, Michael Moore, Kimberly Couturier, John Hayes, Mark Otte, Kathleen Ward, Robin Stewart, George Bohart, and Scott VanAllsburg. Yes: Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8b. Downtown Development Authority Plan Amendment Ordinance- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the first reading of the DDA Plan Amendment Ordinance as presented. Yes: Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8c. Resolution in support of Safe Routes to Schools requested by Williamston Community Schools:**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the resolution for the Safe Routes to Schools resolution as presented. Yes: Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8d. Resolution recommended by Mayor Hyne endorsing community participation in 2010 Winter Warm-Up challenge sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Community Partners in Health:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the resolution in support of the community participation in the 2010 Winter Warm-Up Challenge sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Community Partners in Health. Yes: VanAllsburg, Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Siciliano**, second by **Smith**, to recognize Larry Wittrup. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Larry Wittrup recommended that the City work with the schools to get people involved in the program.

**8e. Resolution recommended by Mayor Hyne in support of establishing a summer music series:**

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the resolution in support of establishing a summer music series as amended with the addition of 'in coordination with the Parks & Recreation Commission' and the 3<sup>rd</sup> whereas instead of a period it be a comma. Yes: Zichi, Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8f. Resolution Recommended by Mayor Hyne in support of a Williamston Pumpkin Festival Resolution:**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the resolution in support of the Williamston Pumpkin Festival as presented. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the resolution in support of the Williamston Pumpkin Festival bonfire as presented for October 2010. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pratt, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Zichi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8g. Zoning Ordinance- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to recognize Robert Reed. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Robert Reed commented if the language specifically says the structures would return to their original use then that would be okay. He just wants it to be able to turn back into a house.

Councilmember Smith asked if they have to go to the Planning Commission to ask for permission to return the office to a house.

Jim Breukman stated that it does not have to go to the Planning Commission, but there may be building permits that are needed.

\*Zichi left at 8:11 p.m.

\*Pratt left at 8:11 p.m. and returned at 8:25 p.m.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he believes the sign size should be unlimited for temporary signs.

Councilman Siciliano commented that he believes there should be some size limit.

Mayor Hyne commented that the temporary sign limits freedom of speech.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to recognize Robert Reed. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Robert Reed commented that if a sign is 18x24, that's three square feet and you could only have two of them.

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

Sean Barrett commented that this is the first recording set up they've done and he doesn't know when the last one was done, but he would like to contact Trudy Stevens and Holly Thompson to have the videographer in the center of the room. He added that Six Strings is producing a CD that will have 100% of the profits going to the Williamston Food Bank.

Councilmember Smith asked if a holiday sign would be considered under this temporary sign section.

Mayor Hyne commented that she does not like the provision that holiday decorations need to be taken down two weeks after the holiday. She also stated that she was concerned with holiday lighting provisions and used Silver Rabbit as an example.

They asked that Planner Acuff be present to address the Silver Rabbit holiday lighting complaint.

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

Brad Davidson owns 902 S. Putnam currently zoned R-1 and to be rezoned as Professional Office. He stated that it has financial implications on him. The property is directly across from the Industrial Park and they have plans to change the property back to a house or perhaps a duplex. He wants to be able to sell it as residential or office. He asked the City not to take away his property rights. He stated that his property is a buffer property between commercial and residential. If there are any other issues he should know about his property, he asked to be notified.

Carl McIntosh commented that he is not in agreement with the spot zoning issues. He is afraid that the zoning will have to be changed in 5 to 10 years. He stated that the Zoning Ordinance is a working document. He is purchasing 530 E. Grand River with the understanding that the zoning is C-3. In a similar area on East Grand River the zoning is not being changed with the same circumstances.

Councilman Siciliano commented that Jim Breuckman should look into the past issues with Mr. Davidson's property to figure out how to address it.

\*Pratt left at 8:59 p.m.

Councilmember Smith commented that she does not agree with the recreational vehicle section of the ordinance. She felt it was too limiting to people and their private property.

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

Sandy Whelton commented that it is difficult to distinguish between the condition a recreational vehicle is in and whether it affects property values.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Siciliano**, to recognize Tim Grossman. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Tim Grossman commented that the Zoning Ordinance is now in Council's hands.

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

Jane Reagan commented that it would help if when the Council is commenting on the Zoning Ordinance they should be prepared with specific issues and suggestions for solutions.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Moody**, to approve the first reading of the Zoning Ordinance as presented with the Zoning Ordinance being put on the next agenda for discussion with a listing of the points of concern to go to the Planning Commission and Council. Yes: Moody, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8h. Recommendation to accept Etna Supply proposal for purchase of water meter transceiver units in the amount of \$14,000:**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Siciliano**, to approve the Etna Supply proposal for purchase of 100 water meter transceiver units in the amount of \$14,000 as presented. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the budget amendment as presented. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Siciliano, Smith, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8i. Proclamations thanking outgoing City Council members Siciliano, Smith, and Zichi for their community service while serving on the City Council:**

Mayor Hyne read aloud the proclamations to the outgoing Council members and presented the certificates to them.

**11. Staff Reports**

**11a. City Manager:**

Manager Allard reported that Progress Court has been paved and the utilities were put in place. They were able to complete it within the timeline in the agreement. DTE turned the electricity to the bandshell on. The steel doors have been installed and the cement steps have been replaced. The stage lights are almost installed. The Tree Sculpture Festival committee has done an amazing amount of work on the Festival including, a poster, banner, and schedule brochure. Preliminary drawings have been received for the demolition of the back portion of the 109 building and will be sent to the building inspector for review. There is a section of sidewalk in need of repair on Rowley Road due to washout.

**11b. City Attorney:**

Attorney Toskey commented that a notice was in the Enterprise regarding the new Zoning Ordinance before the Planning Commission held their public hearing on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**11c. City Clerk:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

**11d. Police Chief:**

Statistics for October were submitted for Council review. Chief Hetfield also reported that the Police Department will be doing the 'Fill a Cop Car' campaign on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**11e. WWTP:**

A report for October was submitted for Council review.

**11f. Community Development Director:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

**11g. Building Department:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

**11h. Treasurer:**

A monthly balance report was submitted for Council review.

**12. Audience Participation:**

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

**13. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman VanAllsburg complimented Director Aniol on her organizational skills. He stated that Six Strings has produced a CD for purchase to benefit the food bank. He is excited about the sculpture choices for McCormick Park.

Councilman Moody thanked the outgoing Council members for their service.

Mayor Hyne congratulated Manager Allard on the Progress Court project. She added that she is please the City could move forward while maintaining good relationships. She also thanked Centurion Medical Supply, C2AE, and EDA for their work on the project. Mayor Hyne also reminded everyone that the Light Parade is December 5<sup>th</sup>. She thanked Council Members Zichi, Smith, and Siciliano for their service.

Councilman Siciliano expressed his condolences to Chris Crandall. He stated that he appreciates the opportunity he had to serve and stated that he does not dislike anyone. He thanked the City staff for the help with some of his responsibilities and particularly thanked Deputy Treasurer Geral Jeffrey. He thanked his wife for putting up with the hours he put into the Council.

Councilmember Smith thanked Council for working with her. She stated that it has been a learning experience and the City is doing great things. She thanked the Tree Sculpture Committee for their work and thought their efforts will bring people to the community. She also stated that the City staff has been friendly.

**14. Adjournment:**

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

**\*Meeting Adjourned at 10:31 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor**

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_