

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2010
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 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 Scott VanAllsburg, Timothy Grossman, Randy Pail, John Pratt, and Andy Simmons. Absent: Michael Moody.

Also Present:

City Manager Tim Allard, Treasurer Alan Dolley, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, Police Chief Mark Hetfield, McKenna Representative Jim Breuckman, citizens Terri Campbell, Kent Hall, Brooke Locke, Rachel Olson, Jim DeForest, and other members of the public.

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

4. Approval of Agenda:

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

5. Audience Participation:

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

6. Proclamation- Hannah Miller:

This will be on the next agenda.

7. Council Minutes of December 14, 2009 & Special Minutes of December 21, 2009:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pail**, to approve the Council minutes of December 14, 2009 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2009 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote with Pratt voting no.**

8. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$441,051.91 with reference #'s 57503-57615.

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 57503-57615. Yes: VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne, Pail, Simmons. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

9. Action Items

9a. Appointment of Brooke Locke and Rachel Olson to the Zoning Board of Appeals:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Brooke

Locke and Rachel Olson to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Yes: Grossman, Hyne, Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. Appointment of Barb Grant to the Board of Review:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Barb Grant to the Board of Review. Yes: Hyne, Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Appointment of Traci Smith to Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A & TIFA 2B:

Motion by **Pail**, second by **Grossman**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Traci Smith to the EDC/TIFA. Yes: Grossman, Hyne, Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9d. Appointment of City Council representatives to various boards & commissions:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Grossman**, to concur with the Mayor's appointments of the Council to the various boards and commissions as presented. Yes: Hyne, Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9e. Resolution accepting dedication of Progress Court from TIFA/EDC:

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Pail**, to approve the resolution accepting the dedication of Progress Court from the TIFA/EDC as presented. Yes: Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9f. Ratification of C2AE grant application services for North Williamston Road Improvement between Industrial Park Drive and Linn Road:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Grossman**, to ratify the grant application services with C2AE for North Williamston Road Improvement between Industrial Park Drive and Linn Road as presented not to exceed \$3,000. Yes: Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9g. Letter of Agreement for Fraternal Order of Police Retirement:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the Letter of Agreement for the Fraternal Order of Police Retirement as presented. Yes: Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne, Pail. No: None. **Motion passed.**

*Pratt left at 8:00 p.m.

10. Discussion Items

10a. Detroit News Article- Scandal Weary Cities call for Ethics Guidelines:

Mayor Hyne commented that she requested the item to encourage each Councilmember, Attorney and City Manager to review the article and come up with ways to enhance or improve the City's ethics guidelines.

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to recognize Jim DeForest. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Jim DeForest stated that when he was on Council they adopted Ordinance #251 regarding ethics to address the situations that are currently going on in other cities.

Motion by **Pail**, second by **Grossman**, to appoint Councilman VanAllsburg to run the rest of the meeting. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

*Hyne left at 8:08 p.m.

10b. Condition of Rowley Road pedestrian bridge:

Manager Allard reported that they are discussing with the City Engineer and DPW staff how to repair the pedestrian bridge at Rowley Road that is currently in disrepair due to erosion.

10c. Fox Run Ct cul-de-sac island south of Rowley Rd.:

Manager Allard explained that the cul-de-sac in Fox Run Court is too small for City snow plows to get around and even is too small for a resident to pull into his driveway from a certain direction. Hand shovels are sometimes used to clear the snow in that area. Manager Allard will find out whether anything can be done with the cul-de-sac and whether or not it is owned by the City.

10d. Exterior lighting as it pertains to the Zoning Ordinance:

Manager Allard reported that there was a complaint regarding the lighting at Silver Rabbit and a notice was sent to the Silver Rabbit and it was removed.

Jim Breuckman stated that the new Zoning Ordinance has an exemption for holiday lighting and this would not be an issue.

10e. Drafted Zoning Ordinance Discussion:

Jim Breuckman went through the changes to the drafted Zoning Ordinance with the Council.

Council discussed some areas of the Zoning Ordinance they had concerns with and Mr. Breuckman addressed their concerns.

This will be on the next agenda for action.

10f. Police Officer in Uniform at Meetings:

Manager Allard reported that the issue of the police chief being in uniform at meetings has been brought up at previous Council meetings and was requested to be a discussion item on this agenda. He added that he had Chief Hetfield survey other police departments across the state regarding the issue and the majority responded that it was left to the discretion of the police chief. He added that he believes it would be best to have the police officer in plain clothes so someone intending to do harm, does not look for the officer in uniform first.

Member Pail stated that he believes the police officer should be in uniform when they are on the clock to deter people.

Chief Hetfield stated that he believes an officer in uniform would end up being a target.

Councilman Grossman commented that he believes it should be up to the Department Heads.

Councilman Simmons stated that he understands there is a level of professionalism, but he would like to leave it up to the Police Chief.

Councilman VanAllsburg stated that he would leave it up to the Police Chief.

This will be on the next agenda for action.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Allard reported on the status of the 109/115 E. Grand River building. The key has been turned over to the City Attorney to hold in escrow so the City does not have access to the building. The issue of the building demolition remains. They are waiting for the financing to go through with Steve Eyke to continue with the purchase. He also reported that Six Strings is recording the meeting tonight. The baseline environmental assessment was accepted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the CSX property. There was a FEMA flood insurance hearing held on January 5th that he attended. The new maps have a two foot contour rather than a ten foot contour that will help define the 100 year flood plan better. He passed around pictures of the brush piles at the Linn Road site that he is having removed by a company out of Flint. The Jubilee trailer needs to be moved from its current location to the Linn Road site to eliminate an eyesore. The riverwalk is being looked into by the Parks Commission as a future project with grant money. He stated that work is continuing with the bandshell. The TIFA board purchased one acre of property adjacent to the Merkle building. The Habitat for Humanity lease is still being worked on.

12b. City Attorney:

No report.

12c. Treasurer:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12d. Police Chief:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12e. Zoning Administrator:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

13. Audience Participation:

Dave Coddington, President of the Red Cedar Association, commented that Cedar Run Subdivision put in the sidewalk and bridge and Red Cedar is made up of senior citizens on a fixed income, who pay taxes, and have a private road. They do not want the issue of the sidewalk and pedestrian bridge dumped in their lap.

Shawn Barrett commented that Six Strings has raised \$1,100 for the Food Bank through their sales of the holiday cd. He added that City Council is safe with their attendance. He stated that the City should feel free to consult him on issues with the bandshell.

Brooke Locke, 223 E. Grand River Ave., commented that the sidewalks are not being

maintained like they should be and used the example of the 109/115 E. Grand River building. He stated that it will look bad on the City if someone falls. The City needs to set an example of the sidewalks looking good year round. He believes it behooves the City to keep Habitat for Humanity in the City which creates more revenue in the City and supports a non-profit organization.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman VanAllsburg stated that the Boarshead Theatre is closing and it will most likely be permanent. It's an indication of what could happen if the City does not take care of what they have.

15. Adjournment:

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Pail**, to adjourn. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

***Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.**

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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____