

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 8, 2010
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was reconvened at 7:10 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Michelle Hyne.

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Michelle Hyne, Mayor Pro-tem Michael Moody, Council members Timothy Grossman, Randy Pail, John Pratt, Andy Simmons, and Scott VanAllsburg. 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, Planner Zeb Acuff, Deputy Treasurer GERAL Jeffrey, *Enterprise* Reporter Brad Ritter, and citizens Terri Campbell, Larry Stafford, Howard Dahlstrom, Jane Reagan, Lea Estes, W Harrison Smith, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to move item 10b. to an action item for a second reading of the Zoning Ordinance and add 10e. MDNR Reaction to Dumping at Water Tower. Yes: Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman. No: Hyne, Moody, Pail, Pratt. **Motion failed.**

Add MDNR Reaction to Dumping at Water Tower as item 10e.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the agenda as amended. Yes: Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

5. Audience Participation:

Howard Dahlstrom commented that he is representing the Chamber and thanked everyone for their support of the Variety Show that was held.

Jane Reagan, 646 McCauley St., stated that she is disappointed that the Council is not ready to vote on the Zoning Ordinance since they received the document in November. She also stated that the process has taken over a year and Council and the public have been involved with the whole process. She will continue to attend the Council meeting and show her support of the document.

6. Council Minutes of January 25, 2010 and Executive Session Minutes of January 25, 2010:

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the Council minutes of January 25, 2010 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the executive session minutes of January 25, 2010 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$178,637.98 with reference #'s 57673-57725.

Motion by **Simmons**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 57673-57725. Yes: Hyne, Moody, Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Council asked for information for the conversion of the downtown streetlamps for the next meeting.

8. Action Items

8a. Consideration of Cell Phone Stipend:

Motion by **Simmons**, second by **Pail**, to reinstate the old stipend policy of \$100 per month to be retro paid back to December 2007 for the Mayor's cell phone with the cost to be incurred in the current budget. Yes: Moody, Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman. No: None. Abstain: Hyne. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Grossman**, to take a five minute recess. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Council recessed at 7:30

Council reconvened at 7:37

*Hyne left at 7:37

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to move agenda item 8b. after 8e. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8b. Resolution of commitment for local funding share of N Williamston Road proposed project concerning Surface Transportation Program grant:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the resolution of commitment for local funding share of North Williamston Road proposed project concerning the Surface Transportation Program grant as presented. Yes: Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Moody, Pail. No: Grossman. **Motion passed.**

8c. Recommendations regarding DPW capital equipment purchases:

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the purchase of the CAT wheel loader in an amount not to exceed \$77,082 as presented. Yes: Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8d. Budget Amendment Regarding Wheel Loader and Claw Bucket:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Pail**, to approve the budget amendment as presented in the amount of \$80,000 to Capital Outlay. Yes: VanAllsburg, Grossman, Moody, Pail, Pratt, Simmons. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8e. Recommendation regarding video taping of City Council meetings:

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Grossman**, to authorize the City Manager to work out an arrangement with Marc Francouer of MC² to provide video taping of the City Council meetings at \$150 per meeting as stated in the proposal. Yes: Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8f. McKenna Associates contractual services contract:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Pail**, to have Heather McPhail and Jim Breukman as the McKenna Representatives for the City beginning March 1st. Yes: Moody, Pail, Pratt, Simmons. No: Grossman, VanAllsburg. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Howard Dahlstrom to provide comments on his prior role as the City's code enforcement officer at request of City Council:

Former Code Enforcement Officer Howard Dahlstrom stated that he used to check for code violations by driving around and following up on complaints. He stated that when he first started doing it, no one else wanted the job. He also did code enforcement for Williamstown Township. He was not able to catch all code violations. The Police Department handles enforcement on ordinance violation issues, but not zoning violations.

9b. Zoning Ordinance:

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that he has read through the Zoning Ordinance and felt that it might be too restrictive. He would like to see a Council representative attend the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings and report back on what was being appealed.

Council discussed the issue of charging people to make appeals and submit site plans.

Councilman Pratt stated that he is still working through the document and other people are still going through it and submitting concerns to him.

9c. Proposed Guidelines outlining requirements:

Planner Acuff presented guides for people to find out what the procedures are to have, for example, a garage sale sign. The guides include what the current ordinance is now and what it will be with the new Zoning Ordinance.

9d. Real Estate Signs in Public Right of Way under Zoning Ordinance:

The Council discussed the attorney opinion regarding real estate signs in the right of way. Attorney Toskey stressed that the City cannot discriminate against content of signs.

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to recognize Terri Campbell. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Council discussed the City having signs that people could use for their activities.

Manager Allard suggested that the City could identify designated weekends for garage sales.

Councilman Pratt suggested that the City have a deposit of \$10 for signs and then when the signs are removed, the \$10 could be refunded. The City could issue them a sticker to put on their sign to show that they are approved.

Director Aniol stated that the Council can write the Zoning Ordinance based on their needs.

9e. MDNR Reaction to Dumping at Water Tower:

Manager Allard reported that in mid-January there was a visit from an MDNRE representative following up on an anonymous complaint of grit material being dumped by the water tower site. The Utilities Director authorized the dumping at the water tower site because the grit auger had

broken and they needed to deal with the grit material. This was not a legal way to dispose of the material, so the Utilities Director bought lime and covered the material with lime and then Stevens Construction was contracted to remove the material and disposed of it as described by the MDNR. He stated that they are looking into ways to handle the problem should it occur again.

Council suggested that a procedures manual be developed to outline how the employees should proceed if something breaks.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Allard reported that the insurance company is going to pay the costs to repair the bollards at the corner of Grand River and Putnam. Webberville has opted out of the Tri-County Regional funding which will benefit the City by providing more grant funds for the Williamston Road project. Councilman Pail, David Coddington, Manager Allard, and Scott DeVries met to discuss the engineering for the pedestrian bridge. Steve Eyke chose option B for the 109 Building agreement. A letter of understanding has been developed to manage the funding for the project. A purchase offer has been made to Spramco for the building. A phase 1 and phase 2 environmental study would be covered by Ingham County as well as a baseline environmental assessment and due care plan. Actual clean up of the site would not be covered.

11b. City Attorney:

Attorney Toskey reported that there are attorney opinions enclosed regarding the temporary sign issues. She reiterated that the Council cannot discriminate between one sign or another based on content. The Council needs to decide how they want to enforce the ordinance.

11c. WWTP:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12. Audience Participation:

Dave Coddington asked if there has been a legal opinion regarding the pedestrian bridge maintenance.

Manager Allard answered that they do not have an opinion on it yet.

13. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Grossman thanked Director Aniol and Planner Acuff for their hard work and stated that he is disappointed in the City Council for making the decision to replace them without informing the DDA first.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented that the McChesney's are excited about the wood sculptures and ice sculptures in the park and believe Governor Granholm should be shown.

Councilman Pratt thanked Director Aniol and Planner Acuff and expressed that he hopes there are no hard feelings.

Mayor Pro-tem Moody commented that the Council has a good mix and it's great that everyone is working together.

14. Adjournment:

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

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

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

Michael Moody, Mayor Pro-tem

Date Approved: _____