

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
MAY 24, 2010
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Michelle Hyne and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Michelle Hyne, Mayor Pro-tem Michael Moody, Council members Tim 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 Sergeant Jeff Hull, C2AE Engineers Scott DeVries and Kevin Feuka, Planner Jim Breuckman, Tabitha McCauley of mc², WWTP Director Leroy Smith and wife Darlene Smith, *Enterprise* Editor Christi Bleck, and citizens Larry Stafford, Terri Campbell, Sandy Whelton, Bonnie Brooks, Sean & Jenna Trapp, Robert Young, Earl Wolf, Rob Oesterle, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Grossman**, to table 8i. until the next meeting. Yes: Pratt, Simmons, Grossman. No: Hyne, Moody, Pail, VanAllsburg. **Motion failed.**

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

5. Audience Participation:

Sandy Whelton stated that she talked to many people that were angry that Jeff Hull has been passed over twice for the Police Chief position. She added that more people would be forthcoming to support this and he deserves the position.

Larry Stafford stated that Jeff Hull has been a nice guy and should be the Police Chief.

Patrick Joseph stated that he is representing the Chamber of Commerce.

Brooke Locke, 223 E. Grand River Ave., stated that they all live in the City together and the City is moving in a positive direction. He added that there seems to be a hurry to fill the Police Chief position and the job has not been posted. The City is moving in a great direction but people are concerned and this may tarnish what has already been done. He stands behind his opinion and urged the Council to go with caution.

Sean Trapp stated that he and his wife Jenna own Yeetown and received a call from the Mayor regarding a posting on their website that she did not agree with. He stated that the Mayor called their business unethical and Michael Moody who is an attorney would be looking into the matter. Mr. Trapp stated that the posting on the website is anonymous free speech. He has attempted to meet with the Mayor but has only met with Michael Moody.

Mayor Hyne expressed disagreement with certain of the statements presented by Mr. Trapp.

Terri Campbell thanked Yeetown for standing up. She questioned if the Mayor is asking for more money for the Flamingo Fest. She asked if there was a proposal for the Police Chief position included in the packet. She asked if interviews for the position had been conducted. She asked if extra compensation had been discussed for Sergeant Hull.

6. Council Minutes of May 10, 2010:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the Council minutes of May 10, 2010 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$57,747.30 with reference #'s 58109-58145.

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 58109-58145. Yes: Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne, Moody, Pail. No: None.

Motion passed.

8. Action Items

8a. Jubilee Requests to use City Property & Street closure:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Grossman** to support the Jubilee request for City property use and street closure as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8b. Board Appointment Recommendations:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Bonnie Brooks to the Planning Commission for a three year term and Gwen Hulbert to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three year term. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8c. 2nd Reading of Dog Barking Ordinance:

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the second reading of the Dog Barking Ordinance as presented. Yes: Grossman, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: Hyne, Simmons, VanAllsburg.

Motion passed.

8d. Consideration of regulation of prohibited businesses ordinance:

This will be on the next agenda.

No action taken.

8e. Resolution for Wallace Street Bridge for MDOT Funding Application:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the resolution for the Wallace Street Bridge MDOT Funding Application as presented with the recommendation that the City Manager try to share the costs with the property owner and Wheatfield Township. Yes: Moody, Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Hyne. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8f. Proposal for Preliminary City Core Facility Study:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to accept the proposal from C2AE for a preliminary City Core Facility Study as presented in an amount not to exceed \$6,000. Yes: Pail, Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne, Moody. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8g. Bid Recommendation for McCormick Park Project:

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Pail**, to approve the base bid from Laux Construction for the

McCormick Park project with the composite decking and defer the remaining options until it is found out whether the High/Putnam Street parking lot is eligible for grant funds. Yes: Pratt, Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne, Moody, Pail. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8h. Recommendation regarding proposed replacement position of City Engineer/Director of Public Works:

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

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to recognize Larry Stafford. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to recognize Rob Oesterle. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Pail**, to approve the creation of a City Engineer/Director of Public Works position. Yes: Simmons, VanAllsburg, Grossman, Hyne, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to confirm the appointment of Scott DeVries as the City Engineer/Director of Public Works position. Yes: Simmons, VanAllsburg, Hyne, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: Grossman. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Moody**, to approve the employment contract with Scott DeVries as presented. Yes: Simmons, VanAllsburg, Hyne, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: Grossman. **Motion passed.**

8i. Status of Police Chief position:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Grossman**, to recognize Dave Underwood ~~Minæek~~. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to recognize Sandy Whelton. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to confirm the appointment of Robert Young as Police Chief. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hyne, Moody, Pail. No: Grossman, Pratt, Simmons. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the employment contract with Robert Young as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Hyne, Moody, Pail, Pratt. No: Grossman, Simmons. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Moody**, second by **Grossman**, to amend the agenda to add 8j. Consideration of Additional Compensation for Interim Police Chief Jeff Hull. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8j. Consideration of Additional Compensation for Interim Police Chief Jeff Hull:

No action was taken.

This will be on the next agenda.

9. Discussion Items

9a. Forest of Nottingham bid specs and punch list:

Manager Allard reported that they will move forward with City staff internally on the bid specs and punch list for the Nottingham Forest Trail improvements.

9b. My Williamston Magazine Advertisement:

Councilman VanAllsburg distributed a copy of the My Williamston magazine advertisement for Council review.

Council suggested that the yellow letters be changed to orange and asked that Jenna Trapp from Yeetown make changes to improve it.

11. Staff Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Allard reported that the engineering work on the salt storage shed was approved by the TIFA board. R&R Fence has put up a great deal of the chain link and vinyl fencing on Fulton Street. The wear course is to be put down by June 4th on Progress Court. NIESA has agreed to sell the generator in the old fire hall to the City provided the City moves it. The tree sculptures are still in the process of being sealed.

11b. City Attorney:

Attorney Toskey stated that the Administrative Officers of the City are the Clerk, Treasurer, Police Chief, Assessor, and DPW Director/City Engineer.

11c. Police Statistics:

Statistics for April were submitted for Council review.

11d. Building Inspection Report:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12. Audience Participation:

Brooke Locke stated that it has been a hard meeting, but the City is still continuing to move forward. He welcomed the new staff. He reported that the Art Walk increased in size and a community art piece was created. There was a cake decorating contest. The event raised \$712 for the Chamber. Next year the Art Walk will be held the 6th and 7th of May. The Flamingo Fest will be an excellent opportunity for the community. He believes the City is beginning to think outside the box. He stated that Williamston will become the destination.

13. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Simmons congratulated Scott DeVries and Bob Young on their appointments.

Councilman VanAllsburg stated that the new show at the Williamston Theatre is 'Home' and encouraged everyone to see it.

Councilman Pratt expressed his condolences to Dave Wood of Wood and Sons for the passing of his mother. He stated that Deer Creek Park was packed over the weekend from the track meet. He asked how the Council felt about having the wall removed behind the Council desk.

Councilman Grossman congratulated Robert Young and Scott DeVries on their appointments.

Councilman Pail welcomed Mr. Young and Mr. DeVries.

Councilman Moody also welcomed Mr. Young and Mr. DeVries. He also mentioned that Centurion Medical Supply Offices have opened.

Mayor Hyne stated that she talked with the owner of Centurion Medical Supply and was told that many of their employees also live in Williamston. She added that the Theatre had a program for young playwrights and John Lepard mentored her daughter. She stated that the City should appreciate what is available in their backyard. She reminded everyone that the Flamingo Fest was June 4th and the Jubilee would be coming up as well. The Parrots of the Caribbean will be playing at the Flamingo Fest at 7pm in the bandshell with the Cool Car Show beginning at 3pm. She stated that she attended the senior award night and wanted to extend her appreciation to all the students who do not receive awards and for the seniors that do, she is proud to have them represent the community. She cautioned the seniors to be careful.

15. Adjournment:

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

***Meeting Adjourned at 10:34 p.m.**

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

Michelle A. Hyne, Mayor

Date Approved: _____