

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 21, 2008
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers by Chairman Timothy Grossman and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Chairman Timothy Grossman, Authority Members Jeremy Emmi, Dawn Marie Joseph, Alyson Wendt, Steve Eyke, Barb Vandenberg, and Mayor Michelle Hyne. Absent: Tom Mitchell (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, Community Development Director Michelle Aniol, Fast Life Marketing & Advertising Representative Eric Smith, and Good Times Communications Representative Justin Caine, and citizens Bob Hanna, Teresa Wood, John Pratt, Brooke Locke, and Wendy Shaft.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add item 10. to 11a. and Replace 10. with 'Presentation- Eric Smith Regarding Marketing Option' and delete 12b.

Motion by **Vandenberg**, second by **Emmi**, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

5. Public Response:

*Mitchell arrived at 7:05 p.m.

John Pratt expressed his frustration with a facebook page maintained by Tim Grossman reporting his opinion of what goes on at Council meetings. He felt that the City Council and DDA should be working together to help the community. He recommended that the DDA vote to remove Mr. Grossman from the board.

Bob Hanna commented that even though Mr. Grossman is on the DDA he is still a member of the community and still has his constitutional right to freedom of speech and believes Council is trying to quiet the citizens.

John Pratt read aloud an excerpt from the facebook page. He asked the DDA to get over the pettiness and get down to business.

Theresa Wood encouraged the DDA to be positive when promoting the community and be careful when talking about the City.

6. DDA Regular Minutes of September 16, 2008:

Add Chairman Grossman's comment regarding TSC.

Motion by **Mitchell**, second by **Joseph**, to approve the DDA regular minutes of September 16, 2008 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Mitchell**, second by **Joseph**, to approve the payment to the Michigan Downtown Association in the amount of \$200.00 for membership, and Williamston Florist and Greenhouse for the downtown planter boxes in the amount of \$897.94. Yes: Grossman, Eyke, Hyne, Mitchell, Wendt, Vandenberg, Joseph, Emmi. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Mitchell**, second by **Joseph**, to give authorization to Director Aniol to pay the Bronner's bill when confirmed if the proper total was given up to \$2896.26. Yes: Eyke, Hyne, Mitchell, Vandenberg, Wendt, Joseph, Emmi, Grossman. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Community Development Director:

Director Aniol submitted a written report for DDA review.

9. Treasurer- Budget Printout:

A budget printout for September was submitted for Council review.

10. Presentation- Eric Smith Re: Marketing Option:

Eric Smith from Fast Life Marketing and Advertising

11. Action Items

11a. Holiday Lighting:

Motion by **Hyne**, second by **Vandenberg**, to have the committee of Eyke, Vandenberg, and Joseph, to do a proposal for downtown district lighting schematics with two options. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Vandenberg**, second by **Joseph**, to authorize Director Aniol to work with DTE to do electrical drops with a cost not to exceed \$2600 to include legal fees if necessary for a new service request for South Putnam Street for holiday lighting by the end of November. Yes: Emmi, Mitchell, Vandenberg, Joseph, Grossman, Eyke, Hyne, Wendt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

11b. Downtown Business Guide:

Wendy Schaft will submit a bid for 5,000 to 10,000 popout maps with a final size of 4" by 4".

11c. Community Center Benches:

Motion by **Hyne**, second by **Joseph**, to move forward to have Director Aniol see if there is an additional bench and if not order a bench for an amount not to exceed \$1500 by November 14, with the City to work with True Value on a look alike bench. Yes:

Vandenberg, Joseph, Emmi, Eyke, Hyne, Mitchell, Grossman, Wendt. No: None.
Motion passed.

12. Discussion Items

12a. City Council News:

Member Hyne reported that the City Council had the first reading of the Planning Commission Ordinance from the Zoning and Enabling Act. Some of the Planning Commissioners have submitted a letter against the ordinance. She commented that it will give control to local municipalities and allow the Mayor to appoint two non-electors. She commented that Representatives Byrum and Meadows voted to pass the Act and many organizations such as the MML support it. Member Hyne also reported that the City is in the process of fixing the lot off of Middle Street and signage has been discussed showing where public parking is available. The City will work with MDOT for suggested signage.

12b. Community Garden:

Director Aniol gave the DDA information regarding a community garden. She suggested that the community garden be considered for the car wash lot. She explained that people would be able to have a vegetable/flower garden that they would tend to themselves.

The DDA discussed the concept along with possible parking, safety, and water. The DDA concurred that this would be a great idea and asked for more information.

15. Public Response:

Chairman Grossman called for public comment at this time and there was none.

16. Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

***THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.**

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

Date Approved: _____