

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MAY 15, 2006
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Mary Sapienza and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Chair Mary Sapienza, EDC Members Pamela Jeffers, Mike Thomas, Peter Porciello, and Council Representative Michelle Hyne. Absent; Dan Frank, Adam Lesperance, and Andrew Bellingar.

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, Community Development Director Alison Alfredson, EDC Attorney John Gormley, Habitat for Humanity Representatives Debi Drick, Steve St. Amant, and Jay.

Motion by **Thomas**, second by **Jeffers**, to excuse members Frank, Lesperance, and Bellingar. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

4. Audience Participation:

Chair Sapienza called for public comment at this time and there was none.

5. Approval of Agenda:

Remove "to Quarterly Meetings" from 11b. and add 11c. Granger Agreement. Motion by **Porciello**, second by **Hyne**, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

6. EDC Regular of Minutes of April 17, 2006:

On page 4, item 16. 1st line down add "concept of the" after "approve the". Motion by **Jeffers**, second by **Porciello**, to approve the EDC regular meeting minutes of April 17, 2006 as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Jeffers**, second by **Porciello**, to approve the bill from John Gormley in the amount of \$250 as presented. Yes: Thomas, Sapienza, Porciello, Hyne, Jeffers. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Staff Reports

8a. Treasurer:

The EDC still questioned the miscellaneous expense for \$694. The EDC requested that an agreement between the City and EDC be put on the agenda to get a better explanation of their budget.

8b. Community Development Director:

Director Alfredson submitted a written report and added that the Farmers' Market will begin May 25th and the milling of the parking lot is supposed to be finished by then. Williamston has received the Keep Michigan Beautiful, Michigan plaque for their work on the History Plaza. The nomination will also be resubmitted to the Michigan Municipal League for an award from them.

9. Ingham County EDC Report:

Sue Pigg submitted a written report for EDC review.

10. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

10a. Economic Retention Committee:

Member Porciello reported that everyone attended except for member Hyne. They discussed issues related to getting a Chamber member on the sub-committee to business issues. They have another meeting scheduled for May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Cappuccino Espresso. Porciello commented that he will see if Member Frank will contact the Chamber of Commerce to see if there is any interest, and if Frank is unable, he volunteered to do so.

11. Action Items

11a. Habitat for Humanity Lease:

Director Alfredson explained her understanding of the meeting between Habitat for Humanity and the City. Attorney Gormley also gave his opinion on the issue. Habitat for Humanity representative Debi Drick commented that they are not trying to deceive anyone or get out of anything. So far they have been cooperating with the Building Inspector to get their building up to code. She stated that they are also willing to complete the zoning requirements by August 1st and submitted an agreement stating such. Habitat would like to be able to open the store for business before the zoning requirements have been met. They do not believe the issues will cause a safety issue. Debi Drick also stated that Pam Jeffers is not a member of their committee or any part of their organization. She has only attended their meetings as a guest.

Motion by **Thomas**, second by **Porciello**, to authorize the amendment of the three year lease between Habitat for Humanity, the EDC and the City to allow them occupancy before the zoning issues are resolved with the awning, parking, and landscaping to be completed by August 1st, 2006 as described in the contract sections two and three and authorize the EDC Chair to sign this amendment. Yes: Thomas, Hyne, Jeffers, Sapienza, Porciello. No: None.

Motion passed.

11b. Reducing Regular Meetings:

Member Thomas reported that he attended the Council budget work sessions and during the discussion of the EDC, the Council felt that the EDC was ineffective and not project oriented. The Council is considering disbanding the EDC. Member Hyne agreed with Thomas' statements.

Motion by **Thomas**, second by **Jeffers**, to continue with the current meeting schedule of once a month. Yes: Jeffers, Sapienza, Thomas, Hyne, Porciello. No: None. **Motion passed.**

11c. Granger Agreement:

Motion by **Jeffers**, second by **Thomas**, to table the Granger agreement. Yes: Hyne, Jeffers, Thomas, Porciello, Sapienza. No: None. **Motion passed.**

15. Audience Participation:

Chair Sapienza called for public comment at this time and there was none.

16. Corporation Member Comments:

Member Thomas encouraged everyone to attend the Farmers' Market and River Cleanup.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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

Date Approved: _____