

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 8, 2018  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Tammy Gilroy, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Mayor Tammy Gilroy, Mayor Pro-tem Sandy Whelton, Sean Bertolino, Noah Belanger, Jeffrey Weiss, and Kent Hall. Absent: None.

Also Present: City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, City Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, City Treasurer Rachel Piner, Police Chief Bob Young, JFM Productions, Farmers' Market Manager Marlene Epley, and citizens Leo Sheets, Jeff Gorsline, Travis Fritts, Scott & Kate VanAllsburg, Daniel Rhines, Earl Wolf, Steve Bartig, Mark Logusz, and other members of the public.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Remove item 9e. Board/Committee Appointments.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Bertolino**, to approve the agenda as amended. Yes: Bertolino, Belanger, Weiss, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Marlene Epley noticed comments were not included from Margaret Bossenbery from CADL. Ms. Bossenbery indicated she would ask the CADL board for approval for the CADL Attorney to contact the City Attorney and the City Manager in an effort to move the proposal forward to move the library to the Middle School. Ms. Epley also contacted them to find out what happened and Ms. Bossenbery indicated their board did instruct their attorney to move forward with it but they have not heard from the City Attorney or City Manager.

**6. City Council Candidate Interview:**

Scott VanAllsburg introduced himself to the Council. He firmly believes in the message of "bloom where you're planted" which he is trying to follow by being involved in the community. He also believes in positive energy towards accomplishing rather than resisting. Core issues include safeness, financial strength, education, infrastructure, environment, beauty, health, tradition, and perpetuating excellence. He would like to work on the water rates, roads, public art, trees, youth activities, attracting unique businesses, city fees, small business friendly, the Zoning Ordinance, and the ice house building if appointed. He has previously served on the City Council and Planning Commission.

Councilman Belanger asked why he is having a change of heart after not running for

Council.

Mr. VanAllsburg responded he thought he may be moving soon, but has decided not to.

Steven Bartig commented he is the fourth generation in his family to live in Williamston. His grandparents were business owners in Williamston. He wanted to jump into City Council in a couple years, but thought the timing was right for him now. He feels he can give something back to the town and for his children.

Councilman Belanger asked if he was involved in any other organizations growing up.

Mr. Bartig replied he was in Boy Scouts, and was involved in Youth in Government and soccer in school and is now involved in Boy Scouts as a parent.

Mayor Gilroy asked how his experience as a union steward and lobbyist would help him serve on the City Council.

Mr. Bartig responded he was a Union Steward with his previous job at Kroger and he was able to talk with Senators and lawmakers about issues working as a lobbyist.

Councilman Bertolino commented he believes everyone should be engaged in their community and wonders what his ideas are for Williamston.

Mr. Bartig replied Williamston is beautiful, but he would like to see the roads fixed, people spending money here, less empty store fronts, and more youth activities.

Daniel Rhines commented he and his parents grew up here. He loves the City and decided to make his home here. He has loved working on the Jubilee for the past ten years. The Jubilee fills the coffers for the charities in the community and is not a party, but a service project. He is very into serving the community and appreciates the freedom America has. He has traveled the world including the Ukraine where protests had to be held twice a month for the elderly to continue getting their monthly benefits. He is interested in government and citizen involvement.

Councilmember Whelton commented she did not ask Mr. Rhines to run for Council and was surprised when she saw his application.

Councilman Bertolino asked what he would want to take on if appointed to the City Council.

Mr. Rhines responded he would work on water improvements, streets, interesting shops in town (he loves Sign of the Pineapple & the Brewery), and bringing youth sports back to local control.

## **7. Council Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2017:**

At 10a. include comments from Councilmember Whelton regarding her report of a day

long trip to other libraries and also include Marlene's comments made regarding CADL Representative Margaret Bosenberry. Also check Bertolino's vote on the approval of the agenda section.

Motion by **Whelton**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the December 11, 2017 Council minutes as amended. Yes: Weiss, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**8. Accounts Payable:**

The accounts payables totaled \$287,731.36 with reference #s 69658-69768.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Bertolino**, to approve the accounts payables as presented, reference #s 69658-69768 for a total of \$287,731.36. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9. Action Items**

**9a. Harvest House Ministries/City of Williamston Easement:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Hall**, to approve the granting of an easement from the City of Williamston to Harvest House Ministries for a buried electric line across Volunteers Community Park to "The Commons" sign adjacent to the South Putnam right-of-way. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9b. Janitorial Contract for City Offices:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Bertolino**, to approve a 3-year cleaning contract with Dietz Janitorial at a rate of \$130.90 per week, not-to-exceed \$6,806.80 (130.90 x 52) per year. Yes: Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Weiss, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9c. Consideration of Rate Increase for DDA Director and Planning & Zoning Administrator:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Belanger**, to approve a 2% increase in the \$500 monthly stipends for DDA Director and Zoning Administrator for the 2018 calendar year. Yes: Hall, Belanger, Weiss, Gilroy. No: Bertolino, Whelton. **Motion passed.**

**9d. City Manager Search Committee Recommendation:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Weiss**, to approve the short post on MML with a link to the lengthier post on the City website. Yes: Bertolino, Belanger, Weiss, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9e. Website RFP:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Hall**, to authorize City Staff to remove the posting of the website RFP and have the RFP Bid Committee review the current website to determine if any changes need to be made with potential recommendations. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino. No: None. **Motion passed.**

## **10. Discussion Items**

### **10a. Weekend Survival Kits, Inc./Old Nation Festival:**

Travis Fritts introduced himself as the owner of Old Nation Brewery and explained to Council his plans to hold a Williamston International Festival of Lagers on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in McCormick Park. He explained their plans and that they are working with City staff on the permitting process. The proceeds of the festival would be donated to Weekend Survival Kits, Inc.

Council expressed they were in favor of the festival and gave their blessing to continue to move forward in planning.

## **12. Department Head Reports**

### **12a. City Manager:**

Manager Dolley submitted a written report for Council review.

### **12b. Police Chief:**

Chief Young reminded everyone to check out Crimedat to find out what is going on in Williamston from a police perspective.

### **12c. Building Department:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

### **12d. DPW Director/Engineer:**

Engineer DeVries reported the snow has begun and he reminded everyone to not park their cars on the streets overnight. The DPW has had several water main breaks already this season.

## **13. Audience Participation:**

Mayor Gilroy called for public comments at this time and there were none.

## **14. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Weiss thanked Engineer DeVries, and Chief Young and their staff for repairing the water main issues in the frigid temperatures and directing traffic around those areas.

Councilmember Whelton agreed 100% with Councilman Weiss and commented the Blue Mass will take place on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Church to honor first responders.

Councilman Belanger congratulated Treasurer Piner and staff on the accounts payable on being organized and detailed.

Councilman Bertolino encouraged everyone to donate to the American Red Cross blood

drives. He also reminded everyone to help their neighbors with their snow removal if possible.

Councilman Hall thanked City staff for sending a card for the passing of his brother last week. His brother is a Marine and served for 40 years. He gave some background information on his brother.

Mayor Gilroy wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also reminded everyone to be sure their sidewalks are cleared, their pets are not left outside, and their car is not parked on the street. Be aware of your surroundings and check on neighbors if you haven't seen them in a while. She thanked all of the Council applicants for their interest.

**15. Closed Session to Discuss an Attorney/Client Privilege Opinion Letter:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Bertolino**, to go into closed session to discuss an attorney/client privilege opinion letter. Yes: Bertolino, Belanger, Weiss, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed Session started at 8:15 p.m.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Weiss**, to return to open session. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

-Closed Session ended at 9:53 p.m.

**16. Action on Closed Session:**

No action was taken on closed session.

**17. Adjournment:**

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the Council meeting at 9:54 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_