

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 9, 2017  
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 Sean Bertolino, Council Members Sandy Whelton, Noah Belanger, Chad Munce, James DeForest, and Kent Hall. Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Alan Dolley, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Bob Young, Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, JFM Productions, citizens Joe Eifert, Earl Wolf, Richard Martin, and other members of the public.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Whelton**, to approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

John Royka Casteel introduced himself as the new Senior Center Director. He reported they have received a grant for computers and are asking seniors what other services they would like to see provided. He would like to continue working cooperatively with the City and thanked them for their contributions.

Rich Martin introduced himself as the owner of the Williamston Clothing Company. He commented about a month ago he was rushing to the airport and it had just snowed 7" overnight. He was worried he still had to shovel the sidewalk in front of his business before going to the airport but found the City DPW had already done so. He often sees the DPW out gathering leaves, branches, flushing hydrants, and taking care of the City. He never really noticed before, but really notices it now and thanked the City. He also commented Manager Dolley and his team have always been helpful and courteous.

Joe Eifert commented when Aldi wanted to locate their company in Williamston they were denied due to truck traffic. He has seen the traffic in the downtown after accidents on the highway and wondered who is going to pay for the repair of the roads from the extra truck traffic damage. He feels the traffic should be diverted south of town.

**6. Council Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2016:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Whelton**, to approve the December 12, 2016 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

The accounts payable totaled \$458,665.64 with reference #'s 68060-68142.

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Bertolino**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 68060-68142 for a total of \$458,665.64. Yes: Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

## **8. Action Items**

### **8a. Certificate of Recognition- City of Williamston School Choice Week:**

Mayor read the Certificate for School Choice Week aloud. No action taken.

### **8b. Appointment of Election Commission:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **DeForest**, to appoint City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Manager Alan Dolley, and Assessor Yvonne Green to the Election Commission.

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

### **8c. City Council Appointments:**

Motion by **Hall**, second by **Bertolino**, to approve the appointments as outlined by Mayor Gilroy. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

### **8d. Goal Setting Session:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Bertolino**, to set a goal setting session between the City Council and City Staff for February 22nd at 6pm in the NIESA meeting room.

**Motion passed by voice vote.**

### **8e. Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies:**

Motion by **Munce**, second by **Bertolino**, to adopt the Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies as presented naming the City Manager, DPW Director/Engineer, and Deputy Treasurer as individuals authorized to apply for permits. Yes: Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

### **8f. Re-Appointment of Robert DeGarmo to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term to Expire 1-1-20:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Whelton**, to re-appoint Robert DeGarmo to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire 1-1-20. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

### **8g. Re-Appointment of Brenda Bartkowiak to the Board of Review as Alternate for a Term to Expire 1-1-20:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Whelton**, to re-appoint Brenda Bartkowiak to the Board of Review as Alternate for a term to expire 1-1-20. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

### **8h. Re-Appointment of Dianne Gorsline to the Board of Review for a Term to Expire 1-1-20:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Munce**, to re-appoint Dianne Gorsline to the Board of Review for a term to expire 1-1-20. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**8i. Playground Conceptual Plan for Old School Park:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Munce**, to endorse the conceptual plan for Old School Park including flexibility parameters discussed by the City Manager. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8j. Endorsement of Riverwalk Conceptual Plan:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Munce**, to endorse the Riverwalk Conceptual Plan. Yes: Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8k. Endorsement of Memorial Park/Honor For All Pathway Conceptual Plan:**

No action taken.

**8l. 2017 Water Tower Project:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **DeForest**, to approve the Director of Public Works to make the following purchase for the project: authorize the proposal of RS Technical Services in the amount of \$14,073.00 (Not to Exceed) for DEPLOX 700M water quality analyzer and SCADA controls for the water tower. Yes: Whelton, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8m. Forest of Nottingham Development Agreement:**

Motion by **Bertolino**, second by **DeForest**, to approve the Development Agreement between the City and KMJ Holdings, LLC for the Development of 34 single-family residential units within the Forest of Nottingham condominium as presented in the Council packet. Yes: Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9. Discussion Items**

**9a. City Income Tax Drafted Document Review:**

Manager Dolley reported the income tax would potentially raise \$600,000 per year to be used on roads and infrastructure improvements within the City. The income tax approval would have to be voted on by the people.

Attorney Perrone explained the adoption of the two ordinances required to begin the process of putting the income tax question on a ballot.

Councilman DeForest commented the income tax route as used in Portland makes this more of a user based system rather than just people that live here. He is aware the State raised the gasoline tax, but this will not make a difference in Williamston's infrastructure. There would be a solid plan of how and where the money would be used each year.

Councilman Hall commented each time a road is put in within a year it begins to deteriorate. He believes this is the only way to make the Williamston roads something

the residents should expect. He feels this may not be needed forever, but could make some real differences for the City.

Mayor Gilroy is not in favor of burdening the residents with another tax. The residents are already paying higher water and sewer by no fault of the current administration. There are millages voted in beyond Williamston's control. We have one of the highest property taxes in Ingham County and it's difficult to get people to move here because of the high cost of living. There are people who struggle to pay their water/sewer payments. She doesn't feel it's fair to ask the residents to continue to pay a higher cost of living in Williamston.

Councilmember Whelton agreed with Mayor Gilroy. She does not feel it will pass if put to the voters. She feels Williamston is taxing people to death and people are moving out, but not moving in. She understands the roads and sewers need to be done, but she is totally against it.

Councilman Bertolino commented he is not in favor of the proposal, but loves what the committee did. He knows they have worked very hard on it, and he has met with everyone to discuss it. He would like to see what happens when the bonds are paid off. He spoke to Portland about the tax and it's great but was also adopted in 1999 when things were better off financially. He is aware that just a small portion of taxes goes to the City. He loves the community and has been here for six years, **but it would be awful if he had to move for financial reasons**. He would like the City to look into grants, and budget cuts. At some point he feels budget cuts need to be made.

Councilman Munce commented he agrees with Bertolino and feels they pay a lot to live in Williamston. Perhaps in a year or two when the balloon payment is paid we can take another look at the finances.

Councilman Belanger feels the Council needs to take a realistic approach. If nothing happens and nothing is done people really will start leaving the City. The time to address this is now. Paying off the bonds is not going to make a big enough difference. He feels they need to invest in the community and it should be put to the people to vote on the issue.

Councilman Hall commented when he moved in here prices were rock bottom and there were plenty of houses for sale. Now there are maybe two houses in his area and they do not last. He feels this is a way to save in the long run. It was not an easy decision to make to pursue an income tax.

#### **9b. Board Packet Copies:**

Councilman Bertolino commented he would like to see if the City could adopt a paperless packet policy as is being done by NIESA. The paperless packet idea came to him after the Planning Commission decided to have their newsletters e-mailed to them instead of copied for their packets.

Clerk Thompson reported she has looked into this issue numerous times, but doesn't feel the City is ready to go forward with paperless packets for all of the boards and commissions at this time. There are still many board members without e-mail and the cost of a tablet for board members to view their packet may not save money in the long run. She will still continue to keep this as an option in the future if it becomes feasible.

## **11. Staff Reports**

### **11a. City Manager:**

Manager Dolley reported he is back to work and catching up on everything. He expects the Planning Services Committee will have a recommendation in February for the Council to consider. He will be attending the MML Conference.

### **11b. Police Chief:**

No report

### **11c. City Engineer:**

Director DeVries reported on the status of the sewer hook-up discussions with the township.

### **11d. Treasurer:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

## **12. Audience Participation:**

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

## **13. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman DeForest commented it is exciting to have thirty-four more units added to the Forest of Nottingham development as well as the Rivers Edge development. He is impressed with the work of the Friends of the Williamston Parks and they are an asset to the community. He was happy to see the Open Meetings Act handbook in his packet.

Councilman Bertolino commented he was able to stroll around downtown after the Planning Commission meeting. He was happy to see a lot going on for a Tuesday night. He was able to talk with some business owners.

Councilmember Whelton announced the Blue Mass will be held at St. Mary's Church on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to honor the first responders.

Mayor Gilroy commented she was contacted today by the local Weebelos Den 263 who want to attend the next Council meeting. She would like this put on the agenda.

## **14. Closed Session – Union Negotiations – Fraternal Order of Police:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Belanger**, to go into closed session to discuss the Fraternal Order of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. Yes: Belanger, Munce,

DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Mayor Gilroy called a recess at 8:50 p.m.

-Mayor Gilroy reconvened the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Closed session started at 8:55 p.m.

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

Closed Session ended at 9:06 p.m.

**15. Action on Closed Session:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Hall**, to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Williamston and the Capital City Labor Program for the dates January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 as presented. Yes: Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**16. Adjournment:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Bertolino**, to adjourn. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**\*Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.**

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

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

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