

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 23, 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, led by the Webelos Den 263.

3. Recognition of Webelos Den 263:

Mayor Gilroy asked the Webelos to introduce themselves and presented them with a Williamston logo patch.

4. 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, JFM Productions, citizens John Bisard, Dave Smeak, Tim & Tracie Baise, Webelos Den 263, and other members of the public.

5. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Hall**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

6. Audience Participation:

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

7. Council Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2017:

On page 1. Item 5. Change "John Royka Steel" to "John Roy Casteel" and on page 4, item 9a. 3 paragraphs down, add "and would hate to leave because of financial issues" to the 6th sentence.

Motion by **Munce**, second by **DeForest**, to approve the January 9, 2017 Council minutes as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$885,027.00 with reference #'s 68152-68229.

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Bertolino**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 68152-68229 for a total of \$885,027.00. Yes: Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Action Items

9a. Lot Combination Resolution for Berm Property:

Councilman DeForest disclosed he is one of the property owners to receive a portion of the berm.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Munce**, to approve the resolution approving the final transfer of berm property to the individual property owners by quit claim deed. Yes: DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. Copier Lease Agreement:

Motion by **Bertolino**, second by **Munce**, to approve the attached monthly contract with Ricoh for new color copiers at City Hall and the Police Department. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Tavern 109 Property Transfer:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the sale of 109 E. Grand River Ave. to 109 Building Redevelopment, LLC for the sum of \$1,000, per section 4 of the Development Agreement dated December 14, 2009. Yes: Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9d. Pay Raises:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Munce**, to approve a 2% pay raise for all Non-Union hourly City Employees and approve the attached schedule for Salaried Employees for the 2017 calendar year effective January 1, 2017. Yes: Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. Redevelopment Ready Communities:

Manager Dolley reported he met with Mayor Gilroy regarding the redevelopment ready community program. They agreed the City Manager would attend the classes on behalf of the City.

10b. Income Tax:

Councilman Munce commented he wasn't really aware of all the road and infrastructure problems throughout the City and thanked Engineer DeVries for sending the Council that information.

Councilman DeForest commented that although everyone can see the potholes and pavement problems, what they cannot see is the infrastructure problems beneath the streets.

Councilman Hall commented he was on the committee to discuss the funding of road improvements. He believes the people should be given a right to vote on the income tax.

Dave Smeak commented he is a resident and business owner in Williamston. He feels the income tax has a chilling effect on the City and would rather see less services or a millage.

Tim Baise commented he has several businesses in town and 400 employees. He believes the income tax is over the top and should be capped.

Mayor Gilroy still has the same feeling regarding the income tax. She commended the Road Committee for their work and supports the City staff and moving forward for a vote on this issue at the next meeting.

Tracie Baise commented there are not a lot of mortgage professionals in the Williamston area and they employ people making \$800,000 per year. She also submitted written comments from Tina Brookhouse against the income tax.

Councilman Munce asked what the other options are.

Manager Dolley replied 6-8 mills would be needed to get the kind of funding needed to repair the roads and infrastructure.

Councilman Bertolino commented the Committee did a great job, but he still wonders what the City can live without in the budget. He also stated there is a grant available every three years that we need to apply for. He feels we need to make some serious changes.

Councilmember Whelton asked about the time span involved and reiterated she is not for the income tax.

12. Staff Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Dolley reported he has received information on the MML Capital Conference and plans to attend along with a Councilmember. He will be gone part of next week for the City Manager Conference in Kalamazoo. He is meeting with the DEQ to get information regarding brownfields and is looking into if they can help with the old car wash property. He commended staff for doing a great job.

12b. Police Chief:

Chief Young thanked the community for the Blue Mass held on Sunday and Councilmember Whelton for putting it together. It was a very humbling and touching ceremony.

12c. Building Department:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

13. Audience Participation:

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

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Bertolino commented the Blue Mass was well attended and there was a good show of support. He would like to see everyone get more involved in the community. He mentioned the Sun Theatre hosted a viewing of the Presidential Inauguration. He believes the Sun Theatre is the jewel of Williamston.

Councilman DeForest commented in response to the comment made at the previous meeting that people were moving out of Williamston; the 1990 census was 2953, the 2000 census was 3541, the 2010 census was 3858, and the estimated 2015 census was 3883. There are two new developments going on in the City with Nottingham Forest and Rivers Edge. There is an excellent chance our census will hit 4,000 in 2020. He believes Williamston has the lifestyle and amenities people want.

Mayor Gilroy thanked the Webelos for attending the meeting. She reminded everyone with the upcoming snow in the forecast to keep their sidewalks clear. She gave her best wishes to President Trump and his new Administration.

16. Adjournment:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

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

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____