

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 8, 2021
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Tammy Gilroy, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Due to county and state health department orders limiting indoor gathering sizes and recommendations for social distancing, in accordance with Public Act 254 of 2020, this regular meeting was conducted via remote participation.

3. Roll Call:

Mayor Tammy Gilroy (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Mayor Pro-tem Noah Belanger (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Council Members Brandon Lanyon (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Tommy Pratt (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Daniel Rhines (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), and Gene Smith (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan).
Absent: Jeffrey Weiss.

Also present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Clerk Holly Thompson, Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, Police Chief Jim Wolf, City Treasurer Rachel Piner, City Assessor Pete Preston, City Attorneys Timothy Perrone and Courtney Gabbara, Alex Malloy with JFM Productions, and Andy Campbell with Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC.

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Rhines**, to excuse Weiss. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Lanyon. No: None. Motion passed.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Smith**, to approve the agenda as presented. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Lanyon. No: None. **Motion passed.**

5. Audience Participation:

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

6. Council Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the January 25, 2021 Council minutes as presented. Yes: Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Lanyon, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the February 8, 2021 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 74009-74045 and ACH 76-81 for a total of \$197,618.01. Yes: Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Pratt, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Bond Refunding Ordinance:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Rhines**, to adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of revenue refunding bonds; to confirm the existing rates for the system and to provide for other matters relating to the system and the bonds; to prescribe the form of the bonds; to provide for the collection of revenues from the water supply service portion of the system sufficient for the purpose of paying the costs of operation and maintenance of the water supply service portion of the system and to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds; to provide an adequate reserve account for the bonds; to provide for the segregation and distribution of the revenues; to provide for the rights of the holders of the bonds in the enforcement thereof; and to provide for other matters relating to the bonds and the system. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8b. 2021 March Board of Review Resolutions (3):

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Pratt**, to adopt a resolution to authorize a resident taxpayer to file a protest before the March Board of Review by letter without a personal appearance. Yes: Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Belanger**, to adopt a resolution to adopt poverty exemption eligibility requirements, income standards/asset test and application for 2021. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Belanger**, to adopt a resolution to permit poverty exemption renewal without re-application for certain persons. Yes: Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8c. Appointment of Council Member to EDC/TIFA:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Smith**, to appoint Brandon Lanyon to the Economic Development Corporation/Tax Increment Finance Authority (EDC/TIFA). Yes: Lanyon, Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8d. MERS Defined Contribution Addendum:

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement and Addendum for the Police Chief, Division 331001106094 and authorize Rachel Piner, City Treasurer, to execute the documents. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Lanyon. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Correspondence Received / Information Only

10a. Public Service Commission Notice:

A public service commission notice of hearing for the gas customers of Consumers Energy Company was included for Council review.

10b. Recognition of City Treasurer for Earning CPFIM:

A letter from the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States of Canada (APT US&C) was included for Council review stating Rachel Piner, City Treasurer, earned the Certified Public Funds Investment Manager (CPFIM) Certification from the

APT US&C. Congratulations to Treasurer Piner.

11. Department Head Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review. He also took this opportunity to formally welcome Police Chief Wolf. He thanked Treasurer Piner for all her work on pursuing the bond refunding. He updated Council on the boil water notice from the water main break on Leasia last week – that notice has been lifted and residents have been notified. There was another break on Georgia Street today which was repaired quickly – this is two breaks in seven days. He thanked DPW staff.

11b. Police Chief:

Chief Jim Wolf said his first week was great and it is nice running into people he knows and getting reacquainted. They are down one officer and the Department is in the process of getting a replacement.

11c. Building Department:

A written report from Livingston County Department of Building & Safety Engineering was submitted for Council review.

12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

None.

13. Audience Participation:

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

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Rhines said Jubilee dates are August 2-8 to give people time to get vaccinated. There is a lot involved in changing dates for an event that has been held for 50 years.

Councilman Pratt welcomed Chief Wolf.

Councilman Lanyon thanked Council for a good first meeting and thanked Manager Schmidt for the Council member review. He welcomed Chief Wolf.

Councilman Belanger welcomed Chief Wolf.

Councilman Smith welcomed Chief Wolf and thanked Treasurer Piner for going above and beyond on the bond refunding.

Mayor Gilroy welcomed Chief Wolf and looks forward to all he does in the future. She thanked Manager Schmidt for the great job in the entire hiring process of the Police Chief. She thanked Treasurer Piner for the great job on the bond refunding and the big savings this offers the City. She offered thanks to our City Hall staff on working remotely for nearly one year and making it all work; she thanked our DPW staff on all they do; she thanked all staff on a great job in this transformative year. She stated

there is no street parking from 2-5 a.m. and mentioned the ordinance on shoveling sidewalks. She asked everyone to be careful in this weather.

15. Closed Session- To consult with legal counsel regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with Michigan Tax Tribunal Case no. 20-003669-TT, Centurion Medical Products (Petition) v City of Williamston (Respondent) pursuant to MCL 15.269(e):

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Lanyon**, to go into closed session to consult with legal counsel regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with Michigan Tax Tribunal Case no. 20-003669-TT, *Centurion Medical Products (Petition) v City of Williamston (Respondent)* pursuant to MCL 15.269(e). Yes: Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed session started at 7:35 p.m.

Motion by Smith, second by Belanger, to return to open session. Yes: Smith, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon Pratt.

-Closed session ended at 8:11 p.m.

16. Action on Closed Session:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Smith**, to direct the City Attorney and Staff to proceed as recommended by the City Attorney and Staff in closed session. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

17. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Rhines**, to adjourn the meeting. Yes: Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

***Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Barbara J. Burke, Deputy City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____