

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 22, 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 (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), Mayor Pro-tem Noah Belanger (Ingham County, Williamston Michigan), Council Members Brandon Lanyon (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), Tommy Pratt (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), Jeffrey Weiss (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), Daniel Rhines (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), and Gene Smith (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan). Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Clerk Holly Thompson, Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, Police Chief Jim Wolf, City Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Attorney Matt Nordfjord, John Bradley of Spicer Group, Alex Malloy with JFM Productions, and resident Shelby.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Lanyon**, to approve the agenda as presented. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Weiss, 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 February 8, 2021:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the February 8, 2021 Council minutes as presented. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Lanyon, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Smith**, to approve the February 22, 2021 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 74051-74104 for a total of \$201,257.21. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Pratt, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8. Action Items**

**8a. Public Spaces Community Places Grant:**

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Rhines**, to approve submission of an application to the Public Spaces Community Places grant program to support the completion of the pathway project and associates site amenities at Old Mill Park. Yes: Weiss, Rhines,

Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8b. Put Your Town On The Map Grant Competition Resolution:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Lanyon**, to approve resolution of support for the application to the Put Your Town On The Map grant competition in support of the downtown water trailhead and parking lot project. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**11. Department Head Reports**

**11a. City Manager:**

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review and gave a verbal update. There was no heat when he arrived at City Hall today; Briggs Mechanical fixed it and said the HVAC system is 31 years old and we may want to look at upgrading. There were internet issues at City Hall today which were dealt with. There was another water main break on Georgia Street this morning which has been repaired. He is working on a snow removal letter to downtown businesses; there are many new businesses, and we can do better with communicating with these businesses. Consumers Energy is still working on the High Street gas main issues by replacing gas mains. Engineer DeVries explained as temperatures drop, frost drives deeper into the ground causing pressure changes which causes breaks and ruptures. The gas mains in that area are dated 1928, our water mains are dated 1927 with our water mains only 3-4 feet from the gas mains. It impacts approximately 10 homes. Councilman Belanger lives in the area and said Consumers Energy has shown great concern; he was told an anticipated completion date of later this week.

**11b. Police Chief:**

Chief Jim Wolf said all is going well. The Williamston Police Department participates in the Hope Not Handcuffs program which brings law enforcement and community organizations together to find treatment options to keep addicts out of jail and get them help. They are working on their social media platforms to reach younger people and different audiences.

**12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:**

Councilman Lanyon said TIFA met and authorized a purchase agreement for the sale of 200 Elevator Street for a distillery, with final document approval by the TIFA attorney.

**13. Audience Participation:**

John Bradley of Spicer Group said he was checking in.

**14. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Rhines thanked City Engineer DeVries and the DPW staff for the good job on snow removal. Everyone has been dealing with COVID for a year and the City has been doing great. He mentioned on social media people have been calling out businesses publicly and felt people need to have more grace; contact the business owner and speak with them directly; businesses are doing the best they can during this time.

Councilman Smith wholeheartedly agreed with Councilman Rhines' statement.

Council Lanyon echoed Councilman Rhines' statement and thanked City Engineer DeVries and DPW staff, and Manager Schmidt and City Hall staff.

Mayor Gilroy said two Williamston businesses have residents who have purchased and donated for anyone in need – these are Jose's Cuban Sandwich and Deli and the Williamston Barbershop. She agreed grace should be extended to one another, we are all trying to do our very best; treat others with kindness as you would want to be treated. She thanked DPW staff for all their work and asked Engineer DeVries to extend this to his staff.

**15. Closed Session Regarding Collective Bargaining as Permitted by MCL**

**15.268(c):**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Lanyon**, to go into closed session regarding collective bargaining as permitted by MCL 15.268(c). Yes: Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed session started at 7:31 p.m.

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

-Closed session ended at 7:46 p.m.

**16. Action on Closed Session:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Lanyon**, to approve the 12-hour shift letter of understanding and authorize the Mayor to sign the document as presented. Yes: Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**17. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:**

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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**Barbara J. Burke, Deputy City Clerk**

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**Tammy Gilroy, Mayor**

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