

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 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 (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), Mayor Pro-tem Noah Belanger (Ingham County, Williamston Michigan), Council Members Brandon Lanyon (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), Gene Smith (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), Tommy Pratt (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan), and Daniel Rhines (Ingham County, Williamston, Michigan). Absent: Jeffrey Weiss.

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, Alex Malloy with JFM Productions, Alex Brace and Chelsea Roberts with Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center, and retired Williamston Police Officer John PeLong.

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

4. Approval of Agenda:

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

5. Audience Participation:

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

6. Proclamation- Police Officer John PeLong:

Mayor Gilroy read a City Council Certificate of Appreciation for retired Williamston Police Officer John PeLong. Council commended him on his 19 years of service to the community and the way he carried out his responsibilities and duties as Police Officer. Council wished him well in his future endeavors. Officer PeLong thanked Council and said he would be around as Williamston will always be his home.

7. Small Talk- Children's Advocacy Center Presentation:

Alex Brace, executive director for Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center, said April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. He thanked Council for this opportunity to help spread the word and help children. This is time to focus on speaking up for the children, so abuse is prevented by: 1) donating; 2) educating; 3) volunteering. For donations made at this time, you will receive a pinwheel garden kit mailed to your home with

pinwheels, resources for preventing and addressing abuse, and a small yard sign. Their website is www.smalltalkcac.org.

8. Council Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Smith**, to approve the February 22, 2021 Council minutes as presented. Yes: Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Smith**, to approve the March 8, 2021 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 74112-74148 and ACH 82-91 for a total of \$760,312.85. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Action Items

10a. Maintenance of Sidewalks and Trail Paths in Winter:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Belanger**, to table the topic of Maintenance of Sidewalks and Trail Paths in Winter indefinitely until a time that Council wishes to move it forward. Yes: Gilroy, Lanyon, Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

11. Discussion Items

11a. City Hall Facility Needs Assessment:

Manager Schmidt reported a series of events over the last month or so have rekindled interest in pursuing investing in repairs at City Hall. The furnace recently died after about 30 years, which is the last time City Hall had a major investment. This is a symptom of City Hall's current state, as there are several deferred maintenance issues with the building. He gave a power point presentation reviewing the repairs/improvements that are needed at City Hall. Council asked staff to assess the repairs and bring forward a proposal to Council.

13. Department Head Reports

13a. City Manager:

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review and had nothing further.

13b. Police Chief:

Chief Jim Wolf said everything is going great. Officer Dayne Bohn is off FTO (Field Training Officer), so there are now five full-time officers, and he is looking to fill the last officer spot next month.

13c. Building Department:

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

14. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

None.

15. Audience Participation:

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

16. Council Member Comments:

Councilman thanked Small Talk for their presentation and gave a huge thank you to Officer John PeLong for his years of service.

Mayor Gilroy thanked Small Talk for presenting at tonight's meeting and thanked Officer John PeLong for attending so Council could honor him for his 19 years of service.

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

-Closed session started at 8:09 p.m.

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

-Closed session ended at 8:24 p.m.

18. Action on Closed Session:

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Lanyon**, to allow staff to move forward with a letter of understanding as discussed in closed session and authorize the Mayor to sign the approved document. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Lanyon. No: None. **Motion passed.**

19. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Barbara J. Burke, Deputy Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____