

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
MARCH 27, 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 Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Bob Young, City Treasurer Rachel Piner, JFM Productions, and citizens Narda Murphy, Adam Spina, Heather Galecka, Marlene Epley, Leo Sheets, Emilee Marks, Emily Sutton-Smith, Mac Donnelly, Eric Hansor, and other members of the public.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Belanger**, to remove item 9a. City Council Election and move item 8e. City Planning/Zoning Services to item 9a at the request of the City Manager and approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Emily Sutton-Smith, City resident and one of the co-founders of the Williamston Theatre was at a meeting as an ambassador with the Lansing Arts Council. March is Arts Advocacy Month and she talked about the many benefits of arts and cultural activities. There is a Creative Placemaking Summit sponsored by the Lansing Arts Council on October 11 in Lansing and she encouraged people to attend.

Thomas Lavigne is an Attorney with Cannabis Counsel Law Firm. His firm has clients that are interested in investing in the new medical marijuana licensing act. He gave reasons to consider these licenses. A 3% tax will be imposed at the retail sale from the State, then 25% of that goes into a pot for municipalities to share, depending on how many licenses are granted. There are a few different types of licenses and you can put a cap on the number of licenses granted. This is an important issue for a lot of patients.

Narda Murphy, currently the Williamston Schools Superintendent is retiring and she introduced the newly hired School Superintendent, Adam Spina.

Adam Spina, introduced himself to the Council and commented looks forward to working with everyone. He said it has been an honor working with Ms. Murphy.

**6. Council Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2017:**

Under item 13., 3 lines down change "the time change" to "daylight savings time."

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Hall**, to approve the March 13, 2017 Council minutes as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

The accounts payable totaled \$92,279.01 with reference #'s 68460-68500.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **DeForest**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 68460-68500 for a total of \$92,279.01. Yes: Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton, Bertolino. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8. Action Items**

**8a. Recreation Passport Grant Resolution:**

Motion by **Bertolino**, second by **Munce**, to approve the Recreation Passport Grant Program Resolution of Authorization as presented. Yes: Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Bertolino, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8b. Full-Time Police Officer:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Hall**, to approve the creation of a full-time Police Officer position with the removal of one part-time Police Officer position. Yes: Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8c. Audit Contract Revision:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the amended Auditing Services Agreement with Roslund, Prestage & Company, P.C. for fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, 2018, and 2019 with 2 one-year options to extend. Yes: DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8d. Set Dates for Budget Work Sessions:**

The City Council set a budget work session for April 11, 2017 at 7pm at the NIESA building if available.

**8e. Grand River/Mechanic Cross-Walk Caution Signs:**

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Munce**, to allow the City Manager to purchase a flashing cross-walk beacon system to be located on Grand River Ave. at Mechanic Street in an amount not to exceed \$16,500 and work with Oakwood Construction to complete the cross-walk project. Yes: Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9. Discussion Items**

**9a. City Planning/Zoning Services:**

Manager Dolley said that the Council appointed a Planning Services Committee to look into Zoning and Planning Services and that Committee gathered a lot of information from communities around the State. Manager Dolley will first present the Committee's recommendations to the DDA prior to Council.

## **11. Staff Reports**

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

Manager Dolley reported he attended the MML Capital Conference. City Engineer DeVries is working on the Capital Asset Management information. A lot of communities have the same issues. There is not a lot of money out there for water/sewer projects. He is currently working on the budget and has forwarded a draft to Council.

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

Chief Young thanked the Council and the community for their support.

### **11c. Building Department:**

A written report was submitted for City Council review.

Councilman DeForest stated the 304 W. Grand River development is really progressing. He also drove through Forest of Nottingham and they are progressing on their project as well.

## **12. Audience Participation:**

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

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

Councilman Bertolino stated he attended the MML Capital Conference. One workshop was geared toward planners with good tips regarding social media. He attended a legislative workshop and there is not much hope for municipalities in the near future for revenue sharing – keep pressuring your state legislators in both the House and the Senate. He stated that Manager Dolley was being modest and bragged about the City regarding the SAW Grant. Many municipalities were asking questions on the SAW grant as they weren't familiar with it, and we are already at the end of this. Regarding water/sewer rates, one municipality had to raise their rates 7% last year and will raise their rates 10% this year, so the minimum increases that Williamston has done may be a pain, but they could be worse. The conference was great and well-attended with a lot of shared ideas.

Councilman Munce attended a Williamston School Board meeting to support the Baises regarding the use of school property for The Commons parking. It was good to see a lot of community support for that as well as for keeping elementary music programs. The Williamston Food Bank is in a heated battle for votes for a \$5,000 grant through Independent Bank. You can vote once per day.

Councilman Belanger stated we have a wonderful new superintendent, and also wonderful High School Sports Teams. He offered his congratulations to the basketball teams who did so well this season.

Councilman DeForest stated the High School also has wonderful musicians. He

attended the Evening of Jazz and was blown away by these kids. He thanked Lynn Kelsey, director of the high school jazz band, and Melanie Rosin, director of the middle school jazz band. They had a guest performer, drummer Mike Francis, who sat in with the bands and played along with them. The highlight at the end of the concert was a tribute to Gene Krupa who was a drummer for the Benny Goodman Orchestra back in the 30's and 40's. The number had a battle between the drummers and was really quite something. They will perform a concert at the band shell on Thursday, May 25. He also mentioned the passing of Larry Wittrup. Mr. Wittrup commented at a 2012 Council meeting on the need for a crosswalk on West Grand River, so he is very pleased that Council passed the crosswalk item tonight and hopes that Mr. Wittrup is watching that.

Councilman Hall complimented the Mayor on her articles in the *Williamston Enterprise*. They were very well written, positive, and encouraged people to come to Williamston.

Mayor Gilroy commented even though her MSU Spartans were not in the NCAA finals, her fun bracket is surprisingly in second place out of 65 people. This never happens to her and she may end up finishing a lot better than she has in past years. Spring time is almost here and it is great to hear birds singing and seeing people out cleaning up. The overnight parking ordinance is quickly coming to a close, but it is still in effect through March 31. She enjoys writing the *Williamston Enterprise* articles and will continue to do so. This is information-sharing based on what is happening in Williamston.

**14. Adjournment:**

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

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

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

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