

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 13, 2020
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 the COVID-19 State of Emergency declared by the Governor's Executive Order 2020-15, as well as recommendations for social distancing, this regular meeting was conducted via remote participation.

3. Roll Call:

Mayor Tammy Gilroy, Mayor Pro-tem John Bisard, Council Members Jeffrey Roland, Noah Belanger, Jeffrey Weiss, Daniel Rhines, and Gene Smith. Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Bob Young, City Treasurer Rachel Piner, City Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, Dennis Malloy with JFM Productions, citizens Sharon Lapointe, Jane Reagan, and Monica Schafer.

4. Approval of Agenda:

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

5. Audience Participation:

Sharon LaPointe said she was present to answer questions on the Farmers Market agenda item.

6. Council Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2020:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Smith**, to approve the March 9, 2020 Council minutes as presented. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Roland, Bisard. No: None. **Motion passed.**

7. Accounts Payable:

The March 23 accounts payable totaled \$85,215.14 with reference #'s 72983-73034.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Smith**, to approve the March 23, 2020 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 72983-73034 for a total of \$85,215.14. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Bisard, Smith, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

The April 13 accounts payable totaled \$74,714.70 with reference #s 73035-73119.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the April 13, 2020 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 73035-73119 for a total of \$74,714.70. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Bisard, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Farmers' Market Agreement with Sowing Growth:

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the agreement between the City of Williamston and Sowing Growth for the term of six seasons from 2020 through 2025 related to the operation of the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Bisard, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8b. Resolution Providing for the Continued Basic Operations of the City and Suspending Utility Late Fees and Shut Offs During the COVID-19 State of Emergency:

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Smith**, to approve the resolution providing for the continued basic operations of the City and suspending utility late fees and shut offs during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8c. Temporary Amendments to Vacation and Personal Leave Policies:

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the temporary amendments to the Personal Leave and Vacation Benefits Policies as outlined in the attached Exhibit A in the Council packet, and to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to offer the same temporary benefit changes to the City's collective bargaining groups, and to sign a Letter of Understanding to that effect upon agreement of the bargaining group. Yes: Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Park Equipment:

Manager Schmidt stated the City has put physical barriers up at the entries to the City's parks as well as the basketball courts during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Chief Young was asked if his officers have enough personal protection equipment (PPE) available, and he said thanks to the support of the community they have enough.

11. Department Head Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review and added that a budget work session process may have to be started via Zoom. He stated we do not know the effects of the economic impact from the COVID-19 emergency order and have not yet received guidance from the State. Things that may be affected are the revenue sharing from the State and the gas tax which funds major and local street funds. If there is a large impact, we will feel it after July 1, not this fiscal year.

11b. Police Chief:

As stated previously, they receive wonderful community support.

11c. Treasurer:

Treasurer Piner submitted a written report for Council review.

12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

13. Audience Participation:

Monica Schafer thanked Council for renewing the Farmers Market agreement. She feels it is a strength in the community and continuity is needed.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Rhines commended staff and the community for coming together in difficult times. Thanks to all the support for our local food bank and whoever put the painted rocks in McCormick Park, his kids had fun finding them. He commended staff for bringing things to Council's attention ahead of the curve.

Councilman Belanger said ditto on everything Councilman Rhines stated and complimented staff on putting together this meeting. Stay safe.

Councilman Smith gave gigantic kudos to City staff. Since everyone is stockpiling food right now, please remember our local Food Bank after this is all over.

Councilman Weiss asked Councilman Rhines about the Red Cedar Jubilee. Rhines said their drop-dead date for a decision is May 17 as CDC guidelines are to be reviewed on May 16. They are in a holding pattern right now.

Councilman Roland said thanks to City staff on this Zoom meeting and he learned how to "raise his hand" at the end of the meeting. He is excited for the Farmers Market.

Councilman Bisard reiterated everyone's comments and wanted to mention the Class of 2020. This is a tough time for them with no saying goodbye to friends, no proms, etc. Perhaps the Jubilee theme could be Class of 2020.

Mayor Gilroy offered applause and high fives to City staff for keeping everything running smoothly. Hats off to DPW, police and reserves on doing an amazing job.

15. Adjournment:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Barbara J. Burke, Deputy City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____