

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 24, 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 Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Bob Young, City Treasurer Rachel Piner, DPW Director/Engineer Scott DeVries, JFM Productions, CADL Representative Maureen Hirten, Head Librarian Julie Chrisinski, Spicer Group Representative John Bradley, Senior Center Representatives John Roy Castillo and Susan Cockerill, and citizen Emilee Marks other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Move item 11a. 2017 Jubilee to item 10g.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Whelton**, to amend the agenda by moving item 11a. 2017 Jubilee to item 10g. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Munce**, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

5. Senior Center Annual Report Presentation:

John Roy Castillo reported the Senior Center was able to implement two projects mentioned at a former Council meeting. One was a computer program to train seniors how to use the computer, and to find out what the seniors' interests were. He thanked the Community Foundation for the grant that made this possible as they were able to purchase five computers and a TV for the training. They will be holding computer classes twice a month during the day. If they end up having a group of 4 or more seniors, they could hold night classes. This is not just for members of the senior center, but any seniors in the community. The second item was updating their informational pamphlet. Other future projects include: updating their website and joint activities with other area senior centers. He is still working on their annual report. He stated they served 5,400 meals last year, 3 days a week, with speakers, joint activities, movies, etc. He thanked Council for being very supportive of the Senior Center over the years, and thanked the school district for being supportive. They are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. Council did provide financial support last year, and hopes Council will consider support for this year. Anything that you think they can do to improve education and activities for the seniors, please let them know. Another project

they are working on is an ad hoc committee with the Capital Area Transit Authority, on providing service to seniors with the hope they continue.

6. Capital Area District Library Annual Report:

Julie Chrisinski, head librarian at the CADL Williamston branch, provided a written annual report for Council review. CADL was the recipient of Celebration Cinemas' Celebrated Service Award. Their cash prize winnings went toward their summer reading program. They retired the old Bookmobile and now have a state-of-the-art vehicle for outreach. A local mid-Michigan artist did the art work for the vehicle. Another exciting development was the launching of their library of things, where any adult with a library card can borrow items in the collection, such as a metal detector, telescope, microscope, go pro camera kit, musical instruments, etc.

The early literacy program is very strong at the Williamston library, with regular story times, themes, and music, to help develop a love of reading in young people. They offer classes on health, wellness, etc., which were very well-received. They have digitized all of the Williamston High School Year Books all the way back to the 1920's. They have been heavily involved with the community, attending parades, school events, and ice cream socials. The conditions of the building have not been good for the library and this is the first year that they have seen a decrease in their patronage and program attendance. They have had to move programs at the last minute and have had a multitude of issues. She wants to make the Council aware of the issues and hopes they are working on a solution.

7. Audience Participation:

Emilee Marks of Mark Your Roots distributed brochures for her downtown business and explained her business is a resource for people to work on their genealogy themselves or hire her to do the work.

8. Council Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2017:

On page 3, first line, delete the last sentence and add below: Mayor Gilroy commented the Kiwanis group has generously pledged \$7,000 for Old School Park improvements and the DDA Main Street walk through is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the April 10, 2017 Council minutes as amended. Yes: Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Bertolino, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payable totaled \$44,924.53 with reference #'s 68568-68607.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **DeForest**, to approve the accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 68568-68607 for a total of \$44,924.53. Yes: Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Action Items

10a. Set Date & Time for Budget Public Hearing:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Belanger**, to set the budget public hearing date for Monday, May 22, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Yes: DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10b. TIFA 2B Budget Amendment:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Munce**, to approve the TIFA 2B Budget Amendment as presented. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10c. Williamston Summer Concert Series Request for Bandshell Fee Waiver:

Councilman Bertolino disclosed he is one of the directors of the Williamston Area Beautification Fund but has no financial gain from it.

Motion by **Hall**, second by **Belanger**, to waive the bandshell fees for the Summer Concert Music Series as requested. Yes: Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10d. Appointment of Jeff Markstrom to the Planning Commission for a Term to Expire 06/30/19:

Motion by **Munce**, second by **Whelton**, to appoint Jeff Markstrom to the Planning Commission for a term to expire 06/30/19 contingent upon his resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Yes: Hall, Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10e. Appointment of Ric Pelkey to the Downtown Development Authority for a Term to Expire 06/30/19:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Bertolino**, to appoint Ric Pelkey to the Downtown Development Authority for a term to expire 06/30/19. Yes: Bertolino, Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10f. Engineering Services Contract Amendment – East Middle St. Project:

Motion by **DeForest**, second by **Whelton**, to approve the Work Directive Change No. 1 of the Professional Engineering Services Contract with Spicer Group for the East Middle Street project in the amount of \$7,080.00 (Not-to-Exceed) with the total contract price being amended to \$174,080.00 (Not-to-Exceed). Yes: Belanger, Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10g. 2017 Jubilee:

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Munce**, to accept the use of the City Parks for the June 19-25, 2017 Jubilee. Yes: Munce, DeForest, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bertolino, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

13. Staff Reports

13a. Police Chief:

Chief Young reported on the incident involving a student at the Williamston Schools last Friday and assured everyone that the City and Schools are safe. He worked closely with Superintendent Murphy and incoming Superintendent Spina and their staff on the incident and everything seemed to go smoothly.

13b. Building Department:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12. Audience Participation:

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

13. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Hall announced the arrival of his grandson at 1:27 p.m. today, Colin Martin Brown. Everyone is doing well. Hall's son-in-law is a coach at Mott Community College and feels his grandson will be involved in all kinds of stuff.

Councilman DeForest commented the downtown is looking so nice with the ornamental pear trees in bloom. Earl Wolf has coordinated a volunteer parks work session at McCormick Park on May 6th starting around 9 am.

Councilman Bertolino commented he has noticed an increased use by families, and dogs enjoying in the park since spring began.

Councilman Munce relayed a story regarding work being done outside his window in the middle of the night and assumed it was the City DPW. He found it was actually an emergency crew clearing a tree that had fallen on a power line and they thwarted a possible fire. Don't assume anything.

Councilmember Whelton relayed the sad news of the passing of Cliff Dodson, former Leroy Chief.

Mayor Gilroy stated the Williamston Schools Foundation is holding their 35th annual golf outing on May 20 at the Brookshire. Contact the Williamston Schools Foundation to register. Last Tuesday a DDA work session was held which included a walking tour of Williamston with the Main Street Program representatives. Council chambers was packed and representatives from Old Town and Howell's programs were in attendance and shared amazing information about how their programs have been extremely successful. The DDA will move forward with the program as we are not tied to a three-year minimum of being at the beginning level of the program, to see if it would be a good fit for Williamston. It was well received and she is excited for our residents and business owners. She thanked Earl Wolf and everyone involved in the QR code sticker on the downtown Williamston buildings which enables people to obtain history and photos of the building. On a personal note, her daughter is moving to Chicago to work for Trunk Club which is a very cool clothing company. Her daughter is a 2014 MSU alumni in fashion and apparel. She is excited for her in this new adventure.

14. Adjournment:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____