

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 11, 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 2020-75, as well as recommendations for social distancing, this regular meeting was conducted via remote participation.

**3. Roll Call:**

Mayor Tammy Gilroy, Council Members Jeffrey Roland, Noah Belanger, Jeffrey Weiss, Daniel Rhines, and Gene Smith. Absent: John Bisard.

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, Dennis Malloy with JFM Productions, and citizen Monica Schafer.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

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

**6. Council Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2020:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the April 13, 2020 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

The May 11 accounts payable totaled \$208,642.45 with reference #'s 12A dated April 30, 2020, and 73125-73169 dated April 16-May 1, 2020.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the May 11, 2020 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 12A and 73125-73169 for a total of \$208,642.45. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Roland. No: None. **Motion passed.**

There was a question on insurance for fuel tanks installed on City property. Manager Schmidt will check into this.

**8. Action Items**

**8a. Set Budget Public Hearing for 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget – May 26, 2020 at 7:05 pm:**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Weiss**, to set a public hearing for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year

Budget for Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 7:05 pm. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

## **9. Discussion Items**

### **9a. Community Reopening:**

City Attorney Perrone gave a comprehensive review of the community reopening information and the Governor's Executive Orders. Questions were asked of Attorney Perrone, Chief Young, and Manager Schmidt.

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Rhines**, to reopen our parks by removing any barriers that are currently placed and installing CDC recommendation-based signage, including the bathrooms in the opening. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Belanger. No: Weiss. **Motion passed.**

It was mentioned it would be nice to have the restrooms open by this Sunday for the Farmers' Market.

## **10. Correspondence Received / Information Only:**

### **10a. Award of LEAP Grand to City of Williamston**

Thanks to Clerk Thompson for all her work on this grant and in working with the Art Committee. The City received a \$10,000 grant from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) to advance permanent public art projects. This will be a mural on the south side of the building at 151 South Putnam to welcome people to Williamston.

## **11. Department Head Reports**

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

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review and added there has been a lot going on in the southeast quadrant over the last four years. We have a complete reconstruction of Middle Street through Putnam and they are days away from completing the parking resurfacing reorientation project lot. With the art grant we have a public art project coming and when you look at all the changes just in that quadrant with grant funds or participation with the DDA, it is a positive thing. He offered kudos to everybody who has worked hard over the last four years to spruce up that area of town and we look forward to getting that parking lot project done and opened.

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

None.

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

None.

## **13. Audience Participation:**

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

## **14. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Rhines commended Williamston business owners on the ingenious ways to keep income coming in, like Limner Press and 141 Designs making face masks. He feels for these small businesses in Williamston and the smaller businesses all around.

Councilman Smith gave a big thank you to Attorney Perrone for his comprehensive review of the community reopening information. He felt the police should use their discretion on giving warnings and not issuing tickets. He would like to explore other avenues further.

Councilman Roland thanked Attorney Perrone for advising Council on what is going on as far as a legal standpoint.

Mayor Gilroy said she was on the same page – she wants businesses to reopen but at no risk or peril to their livelihoods. She looks to the Chief for guidance and discretion on activities. Thanks to Attorney Perrone for his review. Thanks to City Staff and to the DPW for all the work they are doing while keeping an appropriate social distance.

**15. Adjournment:**

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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

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**Tammy Gilroy, Mayor**

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