

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
MAY 13, 2019
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 John Bisard, Council Members Sandy Whelton, Noah Belanger, Jeff Weiss, Dan Rhines, and Kent Hall. Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Bob Young, Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, Treasurer Rachel Piner, JFM Productions, CADL Representatives Julie Chrisinski, Scott Duimstra, Deb Bloomquist, and citizens Jim DeForest, Jane Reagan, Marlene Epley, Leo Sheets, Tom Carey, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to add item 9o. Trent Allen Memorial Basketball Court- Re-Paving Proposal. Yes: Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the agenda as amended. Yes: Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

5. Audience Participation:

Tom Carey introduced himself as the new Farmers' Market Manager. The Farmers' Market begins this Sunday and will have music, dancing, and other entertainment. The market will run every Sunday until October 13th. He would like to build a relationship with the City and stated the Farmers' Market services the entire region and rural community. They will again have food assistance programs available.

6. Capital Area District Library Annual Report:

Head Librarian Julie Chrisinski distributed the annual CADL report to Council and spoke about the Williamston Branch now located at the Middle School. They are very happy with their new space and feel it has been a much nicer experience for their patrons. She thanked the City for their part in the collaboration, they could not have done it without the good faith efforts of the City Council, the CADL board and the Schools.

People at the new location, now stop and stay awhile. The library increased seating from two chairs at a single table at the old library to a library full of tables and multiple chairs. They offer tutoring on a regular basis. Space is much more conducive to library functions. They have a program called book-a-librarian, a one-on-one program that

helps people that need assistance in finding information, filling out applications, technology, etc.

They are focusing on community outreach – schools, senior center, events such as parades, National Night Out and summer concerts, to connect with the public. Everything is going well and they are looking forward to what is to come, including renovations and a proposed StoryWalk in McCormick Park.

Scott Duimstra distributed a proposed renovations budget to Council. Last year, when Rachel Piner was Interim City Manager, it was estimated that \$15,000 was the amount for which the City would be responsible.

They had some issues with the main entrance awning after going through this winter. This is the responsibility of the municipality, that is why his budget shows \$20,000, but if City wants to remain with the \$15,000, the library can find another way to pay for the difference.

They will try to do the project after the fourth of July, as school needs to be out, working with contractors' schedules, and they expect to be closed for about four weeks. Summer is their busiest time, so they would come up with creative ways to get people their library information.

Ribbon cutting – tentative second week of August

Manager Schmidt stated with \$15,000 budgeted, probably looking at a budget amendment to consider that request

7. Council Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019:

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the April 22, 2019 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payables totaled \$177,426.44 with reference #'s 71714-71759.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Hall**, to approve the accounts payables as presented, reference #'s 71714-71759 for a total of \$177,426.44. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Action Items

9a. Resolution for Charitable Gaming License- Weekend Survival Kits:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Hall**, to approve the resolution for Charitable Gaming License for Weekend Survival Kits as presented. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. Second Reading of Monthly Utility Billing Ordinance Amendment:

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Whelton**, to approve the second reading of the Monthly Utility Billing Ordinance Amendment as presented. Yes: Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Consideration of Fireworks Show by Night Magic Displays:

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Whelton**, to approve the request to have fireworks in Williamston by Night Magic Displays with NIESA being informed and present during fireworks display. Yes: Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9d. Appointment of Kenneth Szymusiak to the Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A & TIFA 2B for a Term to Expire 06/30/21:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Hall**, to appoint Kenneth Szymusiak to the Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A & TIFA 2B for a Term to Expire 06/30/21. Yes: Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9e. Set Public Hearing for 2019/2020 Fiscal Year Budget- May 28, 2019 at 7:05 p.m.:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Bisard**, to set the public hearing for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year Budget for May 28, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bisard. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9f. Consideration of Application and Permit for Sale and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park- Williamston Lions Club:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the application and permit for sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park by the Williamston Lions Club. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9g. Consideration of Resolution Authorizing the Application for Special License for Williamston Lion's Club:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Application for Special License for the Williamston Lions Club as presented. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9h. Re-Appointment of Narda Murphy to the Downtown Development Authority for a Term to Expire 06/30/23:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Whelton**, to re-appoint Narda Murphy to the Downtown Development Authority for a term to expire 06/30/23. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9i. Re-Appointment of Peter Porciello to the Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A & TIFA 2B for a Term to Expire 06/30/25:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Belanger**, to re-appoint Peter Porciello to the Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A & TIFA 2B for a term to expire 06/30/25. Yes: Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9j. Amendment to St. Mary Request for Waiver of Fees:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Whelton**, to approve the amendment to St. Mary's request for Waiver of Fees change from August 2nd to August 3rd. Yes: Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9k. Consideration of Asphalt Patching Material Proposal from One Way Asphalt:

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Whelton**, to approve the proposal for pavement repairs from One Way Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. of Williamston, Michigan for various water main repairs and alley overlay for the combined total not-to-exceed \$7,985. Yes: Whelton, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9l. Consideration of Equipment Purchase for Volunteers Community Park:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Hall**, to approve the purchase of playground equipment for Volunteers Community Park from Miracle Midwest in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,188 to be reimbursed by Friends of Williamston Parks. Yes: Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9m. Set City Council Infrastructure Funding Work Session for Tuesday, May 28th at 6:00 p.m.:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Belanger**, to set a City Council Infrastructure Funding Work Session for Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall, Whelton, Bisard. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9n. Councilman Hall Resignation:

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Rhines**, to accept the resignation of Councilman Kent Hall with regret, effective June 1st. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Bisard, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9o. Trent Allen Memorial Basketball Courts- Re-paving Proposal:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Bisard**, to authorize the Crack Sealing and Resurfacing proposal with McKearney Asphalt & Sealing Inc. of Lansing, Michigan in the amount of \$7,995. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Hall, Bisard, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

12. Department Head Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Schmidt provided a written report for Council review and added he attended the Williamston Area Service Organizations (WASO) meeting. There are a lot of great things going on in Williamston.

12b. Police Chief:

No report.

13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

Councilman Bisard reported the Planning Commission approved the parking site plan for the new Crossfit location with conditions. He thanked staff for their work on it.

Councilmember Whelton reported Councilman Weiss attended the NIESA meeting and was very well spoken.

14. Audience Participation:

Jane Reagan thanked the City for re-installing the hitching post in the park. She added she is the volunteer coordinator for the Farmers' Market if anyone is interested in helping. The Farmer's Market will be launching a new website soon with a donate button. They are completely funded by donations, grants, and fundraisers. June 7th is the Food Truck Throw Down at the Williamston Roadhouse. There will be 12 food trucks and live music.

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Weiss thanked councilman Hall for serving and his willingness to say the minority opinion which is much needed.

Councilman Rhines echoed Councilman Weiss' comments. He's going to be missed. He added there are a lot of great service organizations in Williamston and encouraged people to join and help out. You get back more than you give.

Councilman Bisard understands Councilman Hall has to resign, but if he needs anything, he's there.

Councilmember Whelton commented she and Councilman Hall had a very long talk. Mr. Engardio's family was thrilled with the proclamation for his 100th birthday signed by City Council at the last meeting.

Councilman Belanger commented Councilman Hall has been a great friend and will be missed.

Councilman Hall commented his hometown is Linden and he is thrilled to have Manager Schmidt also from Linden. He feels the City is in good hands. He will still be participating in veteran causes, the American Legion, and Stop the Loss Foundation. He also attended the WASO meeting with 21 other people there. Everyone needs each other. He encouraged people to get involved and do what you can. You will get back what you give.

Mayor Gilroy commented Councilman Hall's resignation is difficult to accept personally. Incidentally they were both write-in candidates for Council in 2013 and it was a very close election. His contributions to the City are immeasurable from the Traveling Vietnam Wall, Scout Island, giving time to veterans and so much more. He has been a

mentor to her. The past makes us who we are.

16. Closed Session- To Discuss an Attorney/Client Privilege Letter from Cohl, Stoker, & Toskey, P.C. as Permitted under MCL 15.268 (h):

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Bisard**, to go into closed session to discuss an Attorney/Client Privilege Letter from Cohl, Stoker, & Toskey, P.C. as permitted under MCL 15.268 (h). Yes: Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Closed Session started at 8:06 p.m.

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Rhines**, to return to open session. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Closed Session ended at 8:58 p.m.

No action was taken on Closed Session.

17. Adjournment:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Bisard**, to adjourn. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

***Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____