

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 26, 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, City Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, and Dennis Malloy with JFM Productions.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Weiss**, 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 May 11, 2020:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the May 11, 2020 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

The May 26 accounts payable totaled \$62,749.14 with reference #'s 73170-73215 dated May 8-May 15, 2020.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the May 26, 2020 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 73170-73215 for a total of \$62,749.14. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Roland. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8. Budget Public Hearing for 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget at 7:05 pm:**

-Mayor Gilroy opened the public hearing 7:05 p.m.

There is a public copy of the budget available on the City's website.

Manager Schmidt added the calculated millage rate advertised in the public hearing notice is slightly lower than our millage rate from last year due to the Headlee Amendment Rollback.

No public comments were made at this time.

-Mayor Gilroy closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

## 9. Action Items

### **9a. Leap Art Grant Agreement & Agreement with Gavrilides Property**

#### **Management:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Weiss**, to approve the Public Art for Communities Grant Program 2020 Contract Agreement between the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) and City of Williamston. Yes: Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Weiss**, to approve the Public Art for Communities Grant Program Agreement between the City of Williamston and Gavrilides Property Management Williamston LLC. Yes: Smith, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Roland. No: None. **Motion passed.**

#### **9a. 2019/2020 Budget Amendments:**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the budget amendments for General Fund 101 as presented. Yes: Roland, Smith, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the budget amendments for Local Street Fund 203 as presented. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Weiss**, to approve the budget amendments for Sewer Fund 590 as presented. Yes: Roland, Smith, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the budget amendments for Equipment Fund 661 as presented. Yes: Smith, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Roland. No: None. **Motion passed.**

## 12. Department Head Reports

### **12a. City Manager:**

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review.

Councilman Rhines asked about the area and lift station at Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park. City Engineer DeVries said with the money invested in those repairs it performed very well. The water did not get high enough to get to the parts that have not been moved yet, that is in the additional phases of the project. The most susceptible area where water came in before worked the way it was supposed to. Councilman Belanger asked about the riverfront banks near the wastewater treatment plant. City Engineer DeVries stated it is still washed out and needs to be dealt with.

**12b. Police Chief:**

None.

**12c. Building Department:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

**13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:**

Councilman Rhines reported that EDC/TIFA approved the budget and changed meeting days from the third Thursday to the third Monday. They discussed the letter of understanding the City and EDC/TIFA came into last fall with an investment group interested in the icehouse on Elevator Street. The investment group is still interested but upgrades need to be made to the street with at least a sewer main brought in to the front of the building, along with the possibility of further developing Elevator Street, depending on what it may cost. The Commission gave the go ahead to engage with an engineer and see what it will all cost and entail and how far they wish to go with this.

Mayor Gilroy reported the DDA had a great meeting. One area of focus was the completion of the new parking lot behind The Bistro and the hardware store. There is a concern about employee parking. Manager Schmidt is having good conversations with the owner of the hardware store on how to resolve this and how to move forward.

Council members talked about downtown businesses and their innovative ways to keep their businesses going with scheduled appointments, online ordering, curbside pickup, online live video sales, etc. The Williamston Theatre does not have a great outlook as most of their customers are an older demographic and do not want to take the risk of attending plays with crowds.

It was suggested the City reach out to the Chamber of Commerce asking them to survey their membership, specifically downtown businesses, asking if these businesses have done any surveys of testing, or asked their customers want to assume their own risk with stores re-opening.

Attorney Perrone gave an update on legislative lawsuits.

Councilman Smith asked if there were any comments on re-opening Park restrooms and playground equipment. Manager Schmidt stated the City has received no feedback one way or the other.

**14. Audience Participation:**

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

**15. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Rhines gave an update on the Red Cedar Jubilee. The Jubilee Committee is hoping to announce something by the end of this week on this year's Jubilee. They are on a wait and see approach before starting to spend money on advertising, vendors, etc. They are talking about how to do something later this summer.

Councilman Belanger said Kiwanis are doing the Flags over Williamston. The fee is \$40 per season.

Mayor Gilroy thanked Kent Hall and the VFW for the informal get together on Memorial Day. It was a short service with not a lot of attendees, and it was not publicly advertised. Mount Hope Church was there with their band/float. She feels it was the right thing to do, having this gathering in the park. It is hot out there, looks like crazy weather coming up. She thanked everyone for being available this evening, and asked Manager Schmidt and Attorney Perrone to keep Council members informed of updates on executive orders, any changes to the Open Meeting Act, etc.

**16. Adjournment:**

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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

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

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