

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 28, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 Noah Belanger, Jeff Weiss, Dan Rhines, and Kent Hall. Absent: Sandy Whelton.

Also Present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Bob Young, Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, JFM Productions, CADL Representative Julie Chrisinske, and citizens Paul Joseph and Dawn-Marie Joseph.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Bisard**, 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. Public Hearing for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget at 7:05 pm:**

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

Manager Schmidt stated there is a public copy of the budget available at City Hall as well as on the City's website.

No public comments were made at this time.

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

**7. Council Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2019:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the May 13, 2019 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**8. Accounts Payable:**

The accounts payables totaled \$127,858.71 with reference #'s 71760-71835.

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Hall**, to approve the accounts payables as presented, reference #'s 71760-71835 for a total of \$127,858.71. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

## 9. Action Items

### **9a. Water Bill Dispute- 101 E. Grand River Ave.:**

Paul Joseph spoke about their water bill for 101 East Grand River Avenue during the time period of 11/1/18-12/31/18. The bill for this period was \$1,690.38, and the average for this building is \$149.67. The water meter was replaced and they did not get a chance to have the meter inspected.

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Hall**, to approve that staff adjust the bill for the Joseph's for this address in the amount of \$149.67 for the purpose that there is no explanation, the next bill was back to the same, and the Joseph's spent money to replace pipes.

Yes: Gilroy, Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: Rhines. **Motion passed.**

This does not set precedence, these situations are on a case-by-case basis.

### **9b. Re-Appointment of Teri Nelson to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a Term to Expire 06/30/22:**

Motion by **Hall**, second by **Bisard**, to re-appoint Teri Nelson to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire 06/30/22. Yes: Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

### **9c. Weekend Survival Kits Request for Fee Waiver for Use of Band Shell:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Weiss**, to approve the waiver of fees for use of the band shell and concession stand for the Weekend Survival Kits. Yes: Hall, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

### **9d. KCS Angels Request for Fee Waiver for Use of Band Shell:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Weiss**, to approve the waiver of fees for use of the band shell and concession stand for KCS Angels. Yes: Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall. No: None. **Motion passed.**

### **9e. Appointment of Council Alternate for Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A & TIFA 2B:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Weiss**, to appoint Daniel Rhines as the Council Alternate to the Economic Development Corporation/TIFA 2A & TIFA 2B. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall, Bisard. No: None. **Motion passed.**

### **9f. CADL Library Renovation Request:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Hall**, to support the CADL Library Renovation Project with a \$9,500 direct contribution to CADL for painting of the interior space and handicap accessible door installation up to a cost of \$4,500 and to install a 24 foot entrance awning up to a cost of \$6,000, by amending the Capital Outlay Department Budget in the General Fund to increase by \$5,000. Yes: Weiss, Hall, Belanger. No: Rhines, Gilroy, Bisard. **Motion failed.**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Hall**, to support the CADL Library Renovation Project

with a \$9,500 direct contribution to CADL for painting of the interior space and handicap accessible door installation up to a cost of \$4,500 and to add a three bid process to look at installation of a 24 foot entrance awning to be brought back to Council for approval at a later date. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Hall, Bisard, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9g. Memorial Park Storage Shed:**

Councilman Hall disclosed he is with the Stop the Loss Foundation involved in the obtaining of the shed and will be abstaining from the vote.

Motion by **Rhines** second by **Weiss**, to approve the proposal from Stevens Construction and Excavating for the relocation of the Memorial Park Storage Shed at a cost of \$7,700 and accepting contribution of \$2,000 from the Williamston Sting to support the project with the understanding to strike the personal guarantee language from the contract. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. Abstain: Hall. **Motion passed.**

**10. Discussion Items**

**10a. Road Ratings:**

City Engineer/DPW Director DeVries reviewed the City of Williamston Road Ratings 2019.

**10b. Board Vacancies:**

Mayor Gilroy shared Clerk Thompson's report stating there are quite a few board vacancies that are starting to affect quorums for their meetings. While the Clerk's office does try to recruit candidates as much as possible, Council can also help with this endeavor. If someone interested in serving on a City board or commission, they can contact the City Clerk's office for more information.

The topic was brought up of allowing someone to Skype in to a meeting. Attorney Perrone stated that there was a revision to the open meetings act, which requires your Board rules to include a provision that allows a member that must be absent due to military service to appear remotely. If you want, people can appear remotely, but they cannot form the quorum as you must have a quorum physically present. You could allow someone to appear remotely, as long as everyone can hear the person, and they can hear everything and they can vote. You could possibly offer this for not just military, but other extenuating reasons.

**10c. Youth Recreation Services:**

Manager Schmidt spoke about the City's agreement with Meridian Township to administer youth sports programs for the Williamston area for the last nine years.

The numbers have changed dramatically in the last four years, as other organizations have taken over responsibility for certain sports. The three programs still in the agreement are flag football, basketball, and baseball/softball.

The goal of these discussions is that no kids are left behind with their opportunities. While the Williamston Stings representative has said they will explore offering t-ball and clinics, they haven't made that decision as the City currently offers this through Meridian Recreation, and their priority has been largely on the older kids.

Meridian Township is looking for direction from us, and Manager Schmidt is leaning heavily toward encouraging dissolution of this relationship going forward, allowing the other entities that have stepped forward to continue to do that and separating the City from that responsibility.

It was asked if we had reached out to other surrounding townships to contribute.

Manager Schmidt will meet with Meridian Township and see what kind of options we can create that preserves the recreation aspect of this and bring something back to Council.

## **12. Department Head Reports**

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

Manager Schmidt provided a written report for Council review. Staff is appreciative of the investment in the new water meters. The power of the new meters allows us to see usage hour by hour, spikes, etc. Having these new meters and going to a monthly billing, we can catch these things quicker. There is technology out there that allows you do to instantaneous real-time reading. TIFA wondered if they could help with this technology, as the water tower is in the TIFA district. It was unfortunate that we could not inspect the meter in the water bill dispute. We try to help residents when we have tough situations like this, and thank staff for dealing with that and helping us through it.

### **12b. Police Chief:**

Chief Young stated Officer Nick Stonebrook is retiring June 28. Mayor Gilroy asked Chief Young to ask Officer Stonebrook to attend a Council meeting to receive recognition.

### **12c. Building Department:**

Written report for review.

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

Councilman Bisard gave an update on the Fire Code Ad Hoc Committee. NIESA will come up with a program to present to Council that they can present to other governing bodies as well. The ad hoc committee's next meeting is in August.

## **14. Audience Participation:**

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

**15. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Weiss said the two banners across the street look great, he felt it added a lot for advertising.

Councilman Belanger stated the Kiwanis' Flags over Williamston are out and are available for \$40/year.

Mayor Gilroy has attended the last two farmer markets, and felt this was a great opportunity to buy local and it helps our local businesses too, as people are in town. They have had approximately 20 vendors at each of the last two markets. It has been fun for her.

Council members again thanked Councilman Kent Hall as this is his last Council meeting.

There was one application received today for the Council vacancy. The deadline by which applications must be received is June 6 by 8:00 a.m. These would be for review at the June 10 Council meeting, and looking to seat new Council member at the June 24 meeting.

**16. Adjournment:**

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the Council meeting at 8:22 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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

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**Tammy Gilroy, Mayor**

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