

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
JULY 8, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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, Council Members Sandy Whelton, Gene Smith, Jeff Weiss, and Daniel Rhines. Absent: John Bisard & Noah Belanger.

Also Present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Bob Young, JFM Productions, and citizen Tammy Scott.

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Weiss**, to excuse Bisard and Belanger. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Whelton**, 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 June 24, 2019:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the June 24, 2019 Council minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

The accounts payables totaled \$45,886.90 with reference #'s 71943-71988 excluding checks 71953 and 71954.

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the accounts payables as amended, reference #'s 71943-71988 removing checks 71953 and 71954 for a total of \$45,886.90. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Public Hearing for Downtown Development Authority Plan Amendment at 7:05 p.m.:

Mayor Gilroy opened the City Council public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Manager Schmidt went through the purpose of the DDA Plan Amendment to re-construct the Middle Street parking lot. He commented notices were mailed out to the property owners in the DDA district, posted in 20 conspicuous places in the downtown, and mailed to the taxing jurisdictions.

John Hayes commented he appreciated the City Manager taking the time to talk with him extensively and appreciates the plan states the fence will be maintained as is. The fence was paid for between the Red Cedar Grill owner and himself and it was built very sturdy. Sometimes he is able to smell the grease traps on a hot day if he's outside. He is in favor of the improvements.

Mayor Gilroy closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

9. Action Items

9a. First Reading of Downtown Development Authority Plan Amendment

Ordinance:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the first reading of the ordinance adopting the Downtown Development Authority Plan Amendment as amended by the City Attorney. Yes: Gilroy, Whelton, Smith, Weiss, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. MML 2019 Fund Trustee Election:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to submit the official ballot for the 2019 MML Workers Compensation Fund Trustees selecting the three candidates as presented. Yes: Whelton, Smith, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9c. Consideration of Councilmember Smith Continuing as a Williamston Reserve Police Officer:

Motion by **Whelton**, second by **Weiss**, to allow Councilman Smith to abstain from voting on this issue because he is personally involved. Yes: Smith, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Whelton**, second by **Rhines**, to allow Councilman Gene Smith to continue to serve as a Williamston Police Reserve Officer without compensation. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton. No: None. Abstain: Smith. **Motion passed.**

9d. Triterra Phase I Agreement:

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Whelton**, to enter into an agreement with Triterra for Phase I Environmental Site Assessment at a cost of \$2,000 with the changes to the agreement as suggested by Attorney Perrone. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9e. Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau (GLCVB) 2020 Advertisement:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Smith**, to move forward with the process of creating the 2020 GLCVB advertisement in the amount of \$3,650 to be split between the City of Williamston, Downtown Development Authority and potentially the Williamston Area Chamber of Commerce or businesses. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Whelton, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. Residential Street Lights:

Manager Schmidt reported he would like to get Council feedback on a situation with the developments that do not have street lights, requesting them from the City after the development is built. For example Forest of Nottingham is requesting street lights to be paid for by the City. He would like to know what Council would like to do as a policy in these situations. A special assessment could be done as well to cover the costs, but the City does pay for lights and electricity in many areas of town already.

Councilmember Whelton asked if this would set a precedence.

Manager Schmidt answered it would.

Councilman Rhines stated he believes the existing subdivisions that do not have street lights the City would absorb the cost of those but not take on any new developments but require it during the development.

Councilman Weiss believes it is overly cumbersome to staff to have to create special assessments and track them too. He does not want the City to get into the business of providing street lights for subdivisions. He would rather the Homeowners Association work with DTE to get the street lights done.

Mayor Gilroy agreed with Councilman Weiss' statement. She is not in favor of the costs to the City or work by the City staff as it was not budgeted.

Councilmember Whelton agreed it should have been handled by the developer initially.

Manager Schmidt noted the City does not require developers to install street lights.

Mayor Gilroy feels the Planning Commission should look into this issue to make it mandatory for street lights to be installed.

Councilman Smith asked if it could perhaps be worked into the next budget if it's not an emergency.

Manager Schmidt commented that it could be done that way.

Attorney Perrone reminded Council they are requesting the lighting to be on Linn Road and not actually within the subdivision itself.

12. Department Head Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Schmidt provided a written report for Council review along with an update on the Council goals/priorities.

12b. Police Chief:

No report.

13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

No report.

14. Audience Participation:

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

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Rhines thanked City staff for quickly getting the notices out via social media, e-mail, and texts regarding the unexpected railroad crossing closing.

Councilman Smith thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

Councilmember Whelton also commented City staff did a great job getting the information out to everyone regarding the railroad crossing closing. She knows from experience how difficult it can be to work with the railroad.

Mayor Gilroy commented she is sad to hear Barrett's is closing this year and will be sad to see them go. She encouraged everyone to help them retire with a bang and stop by to visit the store before it closes.

16. Adjournment:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the Council meeting at 7:45 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____