

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Tammy Gilroy, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Mayor Tammy Gilroy, Mayor Pro-tem Brandon Lanyon, Council members Tommy Pratt, Steve Jenkins, Scott VanAllsburg, Dan Rhines, and Terry Hansen. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager John Hanifan, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, Incoming Police Chief Jeff Weiss, Surf Net Representative Adam Bates, MSU Journalism Student Emily Lantz, and citizen Earl Wolf.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Jenkins**, 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 September 11, 2023:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the September 11, 2023, minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the September 25, 2023, accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 76990-77016, ACH & EFT 528-550 from dates 9/1/23 through 9/18/23 for a total of \$201,621.42. Yes: VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Metro Act Permit- Surf Net:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Lanyon**, to approve the Surf Air Wireless LLC Metro Act Permit based on the materials submitted. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8b. Social District Resolution:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve a resolution designating a social district containing commons areas for alcohol consumption and the establishment of management and maintenance plans. Yes: Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: Pratt, Rhines. **Motion passed.**

8c. Set Joint Meeting Date for Annual Williamstown Township Meeting:

Motion by **Jenkins**, second by **Lanyon**, to set a joint meeting with Williamstown Township for Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 7pm at the Williamstown Township building. Yes: Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Road Diet:

Manager Hanifan reported the meeting to consider the grant funding will be held next week.

9b. Construction Project Update(s):

Manager Hanifan reported construction is going as planned. They are working on major underground utility installation at the Church Street intersection. There are also sewer issues being fixed across the street from City Hall on Grand River Avenue.

11. Department Head Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Hanifan reported is a busy week with the Council meeting and joint Planning Commission/City Council work session on Wednesday. There will be no regular Planning Commission meeting held in October because the Dollar Tree site plan still needs work.

11b. Police Chief:

Incoming Chief Weiss reported they are already conducting interviews with a few potential police officer recruits. There will also be two new officers starting work on the Williamston Police force soon.

11c. Building Department:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

Councilman Pratt reported NIESA re-signed with their CPA Firm. They also were able to purchase \$50,000 in equipment through a grant.

Councilman Rhines reported the Zoning Board of Appeals approved a setback variance for storage units on Corwin Road.

13. Audience Participation:

Earl Wolf commented the first annual River Day is being held on Saturday, September 30th from 1pm-4pm. He encouraged everyone to come down and experience the best resource that he feels has been undervalued in the City. Sign up will be in McCormick Park with free shuttles and kayak rentals.

Emily Lantz commented she is an MSU Journalism student covering Williamston this semester.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman VanAllsburg commented he is excited about the Social District.

Councilman Lanyon commented the construction crew near his house has been amazing and very professional.

Mayor Gilroy thanked Council for the healthy debate tonight. She reminded everyone to watch for pedestrians because it is getting darker earlier. Mayor Gilroy told everyone to watch for the downtown to transform in the coming weeks. Leaf pickup starts soon and branch pickup continues. She is excited to have Chief Weiss on board soon and is looking forward to the River Day.

15. Closed Session – AFSCME Collective Bargaining allowed under MCL 15.268(c):

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Hansen**, to go into closed session to discuss the AFSCME Collective Bargaining allowed under MCL 15.268(c). Yes: Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed Session started at 7:46 p.m.

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Rhines**, to return to open session. Yes: Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed Session ended at 7:56 p.m.

16. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____