

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 11, 2021  
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 county and state health department orders limiting indoor gathering sizes and recommendations for social distancing, in accordance with Public Act 254 of 2020, this regular meeting was conducted via remote participation.

**3. Roll Call:**

Mayor Tammy Gilroy (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Mayor Pro-tem Noah Belanger (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Council Members Tommy Pratt (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Jeffrey Weiss (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), Daniel Rhines (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan), and Gene Smith (City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan).  
Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Clerk Holly Thompson, Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, City Treasurer Rachel Piner, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Alex Malloy with JFM Productions, Red Cedar Garden Club members Carol Granger, Jolanta Piecuch, Karen Bollman, and John Bollman, and citizens Brandon Lanyon and Christopher Stokdyk.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the agenda as presented. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

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

**6. Council Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2020:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the December 14, 2020 Council minutes as presented. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Smith**, to approve the January 11, 2021 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 73900-73934 and ACH 59-67 for a total of \$153,156.76. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Pratt, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8. Red Cedar Garden Club Presentation:**

A written report was provided for Council review. Carol Grainger introduced Jolanta Piecuch, Karen Bollman, and John Bollman. Ms. Piecuch reviewed her written report and thanked the City for its help and partnership. Mr. Bollman said the Garden Club

would like to donate to the City by replacing the gazebo. The current structure is past its structure life and they perhaps could do something innovative with the current structure. They will work with the City and the DDA on this project.

**9. City Council Interviews:**

Written applications were included in the Council packet for review. Each of the following candidates introduced themselves and reviewed their personal and professional information and why they wish to serve on Council:

Candidate Christopher B. Stokdyk  
 Candidate Brandon P. Lanyon

**10. Action Items**

**10a. Appointment of Council Members to Boards & Commissions:**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the appointments to the Boards and Commissions for 2020 as discussed. Yes: Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>
EDC/TIFA	Vacant	Rhines	Third Monday
DDA	Gilroy	Belanger	Third Tuesday
Planning Commission	Smith	Belanger	First Tuesday
Cemetery Board	Belanger	Vacant	As needed
NIESA	Weiss	Pratt	Second Thursday
Parks & Recreation Commission	Pratt	Rhines	Second Wednesday
Accounts Payable Review	Belanger	Weiss	Before each Council meeting
Zoning Board of Appeals	Rhines	Belanger	Second Tuesday
Fire Code Ad-Hoc Committee	Barbara Bidigare		As needed

**10b. Second Reading of Zoning Ordinance Amendments to Revise Article 5 as to Solar Energy System Regulations, Article 7 as to Buffer and Screening Requirements, and Article 8 as to Sign Regulations:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Smith**, to approve second reading of Zoning Ordinance amendments to revise Article 5 as to solar energy system regulations, Article 7 as to buffer and screening requirements, and Article 8 as to sign regulations. Yes: Smith, Pratt, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Councilman Pratt asked about solar battery containment and if they are required to put in a shut off. Manager Schmidt will look into this to determine if it is a building code or electrical matter.

**10c. Re-Appointment of Patricia Pratt to the Board of Review for a Term to Expire 01/01/24:**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Rhines**, to reappoint Patricia Pratt to the Board of Review

for a term to expire 1/1/2024. Yes: Pratt, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**10d. Bond Refunding Services:**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the engagement letter agreement between the City of Williamston and Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC and authorize Rachel Piner, City Treasurer, to execute the agreement. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Pratt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Smith**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the engagement letter agreement between the City of Williamston and Miller Canfield and authorize Rachel Piner, City Treasurer, to execute the agreement. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Pratt, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**13. Department Head Reports**

**13a. City Manager:**

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review. The Garden Club has put a \$10,000 value for this gazebo donation as they also wish to make the gazebo accessible from the sidewalk. The City and DDA will work with them on this and continue to spruce up this area. He mentioned that there are two Eagle scouts that are looking for a project and will see if this may fit into their plans.

**13b. Police Chief:**

None.

**13c. Building Department:**

A written report from Livingston County Department of Building & Safety Engineering was submitted for Council review.

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

Councilman Weiss said NIESA has been doing birthday drive bys. The kids and parents love it and almost the entire department shows up and have as much fun as the kids. Treasurer Piner said her son had a birthday drive by which he absolutely loved and she thanked Councilman Weiss for organizing.

**15. Audience Participation:**

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

**16. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman Smith thanked the two applicants.

Councilman Belanger stated he approves the Eagle projects for this part of Michigan, and he looks forward to being the DDA backup.

Mayor Gilroy said the first Council meeting of the year is now on the records, she mentioned a weather advisory for tonight, gave a reminder there is no parking on City streets from 2-5 a.m. through March 31, and thanked the two applicants for attending

**17. Adjournment:**

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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

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**Tammy Gilroy, Mayor**

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