

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 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 2020-154, as well as recommendations for social distancing, this regular meeting was conducted via remote participation.

**3. Roll Call:**

Mayor Tammy Gilroy, Mayor Pro-tem John Bisard, Council Members Jeffrey Roland, Noah Belanger, Jeffrey Weiss, Daniel Rhines, and Gene Smith. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Corey Schmidt, City Clerk Holly Thompson, Police Chief Bob Young, Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Attorney Matt Nordfjord, and Alex Malloy with JFM Productions.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Belanger**, to approve the agenda as presented. Yes: Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Roland. 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 September 28, 2020:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the September 28, 2020 Council minutes as presented. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Smith, Roland, Bisard. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**7. Accounts Payable:**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the October 12, 2020 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 73636-73679 and ACH 32-35 for a total of \$2,206,839.11. Yes: Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Bisard, Smith. No: Roland. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Belanger**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the October 26, 2020 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 73680-73723 and ACH 36-41 for a total of \$322,170.33. Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Bisard, Smith, Belanger. No: Roland. **Motion passed.**

**8. Closed Session- To Discuss an Attorney Client Privilege Letter Dated October 22, 2020 From Cohl, Stoker, & Toskey P.C. as Permitted by MCL 15.268(h):**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to go into closed session to discuss an Attorney Client Privilege Letter dated October 22, 2020 from Cohl, Stoker, & Toskey P.C. as permitted by MCL 15.268(h). Yes: Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Bisard, Belanger. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed session started at 7:10 p.m.

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Smith**, to return to open session. Yes: Gilroy, Rhines, Smith, Belanger, Bisard, Weiss, Roland. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed session ended at 7:33 p.m.

## **9. Action Items**

### **9a. Freedom of Information Request Appeal:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Smith**, to uphold the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) denial and authorize the Mayor to issue a written response to the appeal. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

## **10. Discussion Items**

### **10a. Broadband Internet Update:**

Manager submitted a written update on broadband internet service in the community. Through the Lansing Area Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) he was able to connect with Connected Michigan, a non-profit that seeks to expand and improve broadband in Michigan. Some of the next steps include: get in touch with Frontier and ask about their fiber capabilities; see if the fixed wireless companies in the region are looking to expand; look at installing conduit along Elevator Street when the City does the utility project; issue a Request for Proposal to a broader audience. Council thanked Manager Schmidt for all his work and information, they felt staff is on the right track.

## **12. Department Head Reports**

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

Manager Schmidt submitted a written report for Council review.

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

No report. Chief Young thanked Council for their support.

### **12c. City Clerk:**

Clerk Thompson submitted a written report for Council review. She stated over half of the City's registered voters have requested an absentee ballot. Polls are open on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Election inspectors are set for both the precinct and the Absent Voter Counting Board. Council gave well wishes to staff during the election.

### **12d. Treasurer:**

Treasurer Piner submitted a written report for Council review.

### **12e. Building Department:**

A written report was submitted for Council review. Manager Schmidt said our contract with AGS ended on September 30. We may receive additional reports from AGS on

any outstanding projects. The City's contract with the Livingston County Building Department started October 1 and things have been going smoothly.

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

Councilman Rhines attended the Parks and Recreation Commission and stated they accepted a donation from the Williamston Area Beautification Fund of a speaker and sound system for the bandshell. The Commission also accepted a donation of a scoreboard from the Williamston Stings baseball group with a plan to follow on placement in the baseball field by Memorial Park.

Councilman Smith said the Planning Commission held a work session on October 6. They reviewed zoning information from staff and said the City has the most amazing staff. The Planning Commission has a lot of information into which they will be sinking their teeth.

**14. Audience Participation:**

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

**15. Council Member Comments:**

None.

**16. Closed Session - For a Strategy Discussion Regarding Collective Bargaining as Permitted by MCL 15.268(c):**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Weiss**, to go into closed session for a strategy discussion regarding collective bargaining as permitted by MCL 15.268(c). Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Roland, Smith, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed session started at 7:54 p.m.

Motion by **Bisard**, second by **Rhines**, to return to open session. Yes: Gilroy, Rhines, Smith, Belanger, Bisard, Weiss, Roland. No: None. **Motion passed.**

-Closed session ended at 8:20 p.m.

**17. Adjournment:**

Motion by **Weiss**, second by **Rhines**, to adjourn the meeting. Yes: Roland, Smith, Bisard, Belanger, Weiss, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**\*Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

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**Tammy Gilroy, Mayor**

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