

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 13, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-tem Brandon Lanyon, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Mayor Pro-tem Brandon Lanyon, Council members Tommy Pratt, Steve Jenkins, Scott VanAllsburg, and Terry Hansen. Absent: Dan Rhines and Tammy Gilroy.

Also present: City Manager John Hanifan, Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Jeff Weiss, Treasurer Tom Mead, Spicer Group Representative Phil Westmoreland, Ingham County 911 Director Barb Davidson, JFM Productions, John Hart with Fox 47 News, distinguished citizen/guest Marlowe Hart and family members, Senior Center Executive Director Julie Rudd, citizens Tim Ludwig, Jim Carr and other members of the public.

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to excuse absent members. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **VanAllsburg**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Presentation of Proclamation for Marlowe Hart for 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday:**

Mayor Pro-tem Lanyon read aloud a City Council proclamation honoring Williamston resident Marlowe Hart on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 3, 2024. Mrs. Hart accepted the proclamation and thanked Council for this honor. She has lived in Williamston her entire life and would not want to live anywhere else.

**6. Audience Participation:**

Barb Davidson, director of Ingham County 911, said they are changing their mass notification system from Everbridge to Rave on June 1. She left informational materials with Police Chief Weiss. Free products include Smart 911, and they would like more participation in people establishing a Smart 911 profile.

Jim Carr said he has attended meetings for four months with his concerns on the dollar stores coming to Williamston. He feels these stores do not meet the intent of the Master Plan; these businesses do not add value to our community. He asked City Council to declare a moratorium on these developments until after the implementation of the new Master Plan. He presented his written comments to the Deputy Clerk for the meeting record.

**7. Council Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024:**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the April 22, 2024, minutes as presented. Yes: VanAllsburg, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**8. Accounts Payable:**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the May 13, 2024, accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 77515-77554, ACH 864-890, and EFT 891 from dates 4/18/24 through 5/3/24 for a total of \$343,252.62. Yes: Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9. Action Items**

**9a. Appointment of Kyle Walch to the Downtown Development Authority for a Term to Expire 06/30/2027:**

Motion by **Jenkins**, second by **Hansen**, to appoint Kyle Walch to the Downtown Development Authority for a Term to Expire 06/30/2027. Yes: Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**10. Discussion Items**

**10a. 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget Work Session:**

Manager Hanifan reviewed the Power Point for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget.

Council member Jenkins commended Manager Hanifan and staff for finding alternatives; he is very appreciative.

Council member Hansen said when he took a tour of the wastewater treatment plant, he learned all the things coming into the plant are toxic and chemically reactive, and we need to spend money on it.

Council member VanAllsburg said when he was on Council previously, they had to face the difficult situation of councils from the past not doing what they needed to do (they paid interest only on loans) and they had to raise the rates a few times.

**10b. Construction Project Update(s):**

Manager Hanifan gave updates on the Lloyd Street project and the Williams Street project. They should begin paving on the North Putnam project later this week and should close out within the next couple of weeks. If outside of May, trees on North Putnam will be planted in the fall.

Mayor Pro-tem Lanyon said the crews have been great, and good with communication; he asked people to listen to the road closing notices.

**10c. Master Plan Update:**

Manager Hanifan reported on the Master Plan kick-off meeting during the May 7 Planning Commission meeting. There will be public input and participation in the process. The process will take approximately 10-12 months.

**10d. “Main Four” Safety Improvements:**

Manager Hanifan said he has had several discussions with Phil Westmoreland of Spicer on ideas for safety improvements.

**12. Department Head Reports**

**12a. City Manager:**

Manager Hanifan provided feedback on the Williamston Community Schools Housing Committee meeting he attended on Thursday, May 9.

**12b. Police Chief:**

Chief Weiss included a written report in the Council packet. He added planning continues for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6 and it will be bigger and better. Officers have been attending spring sports events at the schools. There was a new reserve appointed and there will be another reserve appointed soon.

**12c. Building Department:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

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

Mayor Pro-tem Lanyon reported the Planning Commission approved the Dollar General site plan, contingent on lot split approval.

**14. Audience Participation:**

Jim Carr appreciated the discussion between connecting the Master Plan and the zoning ordinance. He asked City Council and the Planning Commission to protect Williamston and keep it unique.

**15. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman VanAllsburg commented the Art Williamston gallery has figure study art work on display at the current time. Paul Nilsson started this in the Williamston schools.

Mayor Pro-tem Lanyon asked everyone to be respectful and patient in construction areas.

**16. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:**

Mayor Pro-tem Lanyon adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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**Barbara J. Burke, Deputy Clerk**

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**Brandon Lanyon, Mayor Pro-tem**

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