

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 9, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by City Clerk Holly Thompson, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Council members Tammy Gilroy, John Haynes, Tim Ludwig, Steve Jenkins, Terry Hansen, Scott VanAllsburg, and Dan Rhines. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager John Hanifan, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Jeff Weiss, and JFM Productions.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Gilroy**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Clerk Thompson called for public comments at this time and there were none.

**6. Election of Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem:**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Tammy Gilroy as Mayor. Yes: Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Ludwig, Haynes, Hansen. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Dan Rhines as Mayor Pro-tem. Yes: Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Ludwig, Haynes, Hansen. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**7. Council Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2024:**

Motion by **Jenkins**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the November 25, 2024, minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**8. Accounts Payable:**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the December 9, 2024 accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 78002-78010, and ACH 1223-1227 from dates 11/21/24 through 11/22/24 for a total of \$27,331.19. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Ludwig, Hansen, Haynes, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9. Action Items**

**9a. 2025 Meeting Dates & Times:**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the 2025 City Council meeting dates as presented with the starting time being 6:00 p.m. Yes: Gilroy, Ludwig, Hansen, Haynes, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9b. Set Joint Work Session with DDA and Planning Commission to Discuss Master Plan Goals and Objectives for Tuesday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm Location TBD:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Ludwig**, to set a joint work session with the DDA and Planning Commission to discuss Master Plan goals and objectives for Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to be held in the Middle School cafeteria. Yes: Ludwig, Hansen, Haynes, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9c. Appointment of Brandon Lanyon to the Planning Commission for a Term to Expire 06/30/25:**

Motion by **Jenkins**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Brandon Lanyon to the Planning Commission for a term to expire 06/30/25. Yes: **Hansen, Haynes, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Ludwig** ~~Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, Rhines, Gilroy~~. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9d. Appointment of Council Representative to the Planning Commission:**

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Councilman Ludwig to the Planning Commission as Council representative. Yes: Haynes, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Ludwig, Hansen. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**10. Discussion Items**

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

Manager Hanifan reported the Consumers Energy project is supposed to be completed by the end of next week.

**10b. Master Plan Update:**

Manager Hanifan reported the Planning Commission had a brief discussion at their meeting in December regarding the removal of a drive thru being allowed in the C2 zoning district.

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

Manager Hanifan reported MDOT is still reviewing the plans.

**12. Department Head Reports**

**12a. City Manager:**

Manager Hanifan thanked everyone for their participation in the great weekend in Williamston for the Winter Wonderland event. The weekend festivities included an Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl, Cookie Crawl, and the annual Light Parade. The Police, Department of Public Works, Police Reserves, and Williamston Events Group worked really hard to make it a great experience.

The Planning Commission will have a public hearing in January for the Tailgaters Site Plan which is proposed to be located at the vacant parcel near the highway.

He will be working on setting up a visioning work session for Council in February.

**12b. Police Chief:**

The Police Department participated in the Cookie Crawl, Stuff a Cop Car, Pancakes with Santa, No Senior Without Christmas, the first responder parade at the hospital, and Shop with a Hero. They are currently interviewing for the vacant officer position. The Stuff a Cop Car had six car loads of food donated plus monetary donations. The Police gave out 15 gallons of hot chocolate before the Light Parade.

**12c. Building Department:**

A written report was submitted for Council review.

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

Councilman Ludwig reported Ashley from McKenna was very professional and thorough at their Planning Commission meeting this month.

**14. Audience Participation:**

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

**15. Council Member Comments:**

Councilman VanAllsburg asked if there is any insight as to why the vacant bank building has been sitting for so long unused.

Councilman Rhines commented his family enjoyed the Light Parade. The hot topic of the Master Plan has been drive-thru's, but he encouraged the boards to keep in mind that there are people against them, but also a large amount of people in favor of them.

Councilman Jenkins commented he had a wonderful Saturday in downtown Williamston while walking, watching the basketball game with his grandson, participating in the Cookie Crawl, Pancakes with Santa, Senior Center open house and watched all the people coming into town. There was drone footage of parade as well that was very good.

Councilman Hansen commented he was very impressed by the parking and amount of people in town on Saturday. He congratulated the groups working on the weekend events and the two new Council members on their election to Council.

Councilman Ludwig thanked Council for appointing him to the Planning Commission. He feels the City is very professional and well run and looks forward to serving the community and working with Mayor Gilroy and Manager Hanifan.

Councilman Haynes commented he is excited to serve on Council.

Mayor Gilroy commented it is good to have two new Council members to help keep the City moving forward. She thanked the Williamston Events Committee for their work on the Williamston Wonderland event along with the contributions from the Police Department and Department of Public Works. She thought it was the biggest parade crowd yet. There are several board vacancies currently that need filled. She was able to attend the Senior Center open house and noted a lot of Meridian Township visitors. This is the second year of "Let There Be Light" recognition to residents that have holiday lights on their house. She thanked the City Staff and Attorney for their work and is looking forward to 2025.

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

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

**\*Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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**Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk**

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**Tammy Gilroy, Mayor**

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