

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 28, 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, Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, Police Chief Bob Young, Spicer Group Representative John Bradley, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, and citizens Lon Cripps, Katelyn Cripps, Jordan Davis, Mike Glovak, Monica Schafer, and other members of the public.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Hansen**, 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 August 14, 2023:

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Lanyon**, to approve the August 14, 2023, minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the August 28, 2023, accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 76948-76964, ACH 504-517 from dates 8/17/23 through 8/18/23 for a total of \$283,733.39. Yes: VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Set Joint Work Session with Planning Commission – Master Plan Update:

Motion by **Jenkins**, second by **Rhines**, to set a joint City Council Work Session with the Planning Commission for September 27, 2023. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8b. McCormick Park- Pavilion Replacement Contract:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Hansen**, to award the 2023 McCormick Park Pavilion Replacement contract to Laux Construction in the amount of \$119,000. Yes: Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, VanAllsburg, Rhines. No: Jenkins. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Road Diet:

Manager Hanifan reported on the status of the Road Diet Plans and offered a recap of the progress made on this project thus far. Capital Area Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) meeting has not taken place yet to find out about grant funding.

Council Members also gave the history of why the Road Diet project has been in the works for quite some time.

Citizen Mike Glovak commented he is opposed to the Road Diet and does not see the need for it for safety reasons. He asked about an engineering study and felt this will slow down traffic significantly.

Citizen Jordan Davis was opposed to the Road Diet and does not see the need for it. He feels the City should post their information on the Williamston Community Update Facebook page.

Katelyn Cripps commented the City's communication plan is ineffective and offered to create one for the City.

Lon Cripps commented he does not agree with MDOT on the need for the Road Diet. He feels to make it safer the speed limit should be enforced and it will be difficult to go back if they have made a mistake asking for this.

9b. Construction Project Update(s):

Engineer DeVries reported the sanitary sewer is being worked on currently for the North Putnam Street project. They are hoping to be done at the East Riverside Street intersection as quickly as possible.

Mayor Gilroy commented she has been impressed with the efficiency of the project so far.

11. Department Head Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Hanifan reported the Parks Master Plan survey will be going out in the next couple of days. It will be posted on the City Hall Facebook page with hard copies available at the upcoming Farmers' Market, Senior Center, and Schools.

11b. Police Chief:

Chief Young reported the first week back to school went way better than anticipated with the construction project going on. He also stated the City fared much better with the tornado than the township neighbors to the South. The community once again came together to help one another during the aftermath.

11c. Building Department:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

Councilman Rhines commented NIESA is still working with the Webberville DDA on their funding agreement.

13. Audience Participation:

Monica Schafer commented she is proud of the City's leadership skills in response to the tornado on Thursday. There was a tremendous amount of damage but everyone pulled together. So many families are still struggling with the aftermath. DTE Energy has been great at getting the power restored quickly. The Governor signed a State of Emergency Order for the areas affected by the storm and reminded everyone to keep their receipts for reimbursement.

Jordan Davis commented he heard the tornado sirens during the storm, but they were very faint. He asked if the range can be extended.

14. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Pratt commented he appreciates everyone that attended the meeting and would like to see that participation continue.

Councilman Hansen agreed the tornado sirens were not very loud.

Councilman Jenkins encouraged people to attend the meetings and reminded everyone they are sitting on Council as volunteers and are not paid.

Councilman Lanyon commented the construction workers at the North Putnam Street project have been very considerate and he appreciates that. He added the Grand River Avenue/Putnam Street intersection safety has been an issue for the six years he has lived here.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented he appreciates Monica Schafer's comments. He stated his wife will not cross at the four-corners due to safety concerns.

Councilman Rhines commented he appreciates everyone coming together to work through the storm and tornado damage. He stated there is no money being redirected to other projects from the Police Department.

Mayor Gilroy commented the 48895 zip code encompasses so much more than the City and everyone was very united after the storm and tornado on Thursday. She thanked City staff for all their work during the aftermath. Mayor Gilroy encouraged people to use Ingham 211 as a resource for whatever is needed in the County. She gave recognition to Elissa Slotkin, Monica Schafer, Manager Hanifan, Department of Public Works, Police Department, True Value Hardware, Jose's Cuban Sandwich, Old Nation Brewing, Sunnyside, Admiral Gas Station, and Speedway Gas Station for going above and beyond to help the community in their time of need. This will make Williamston stronger moving forward.

15. Closed Session- ASCFME Collective Bargaining allowed under MCL 15.268(c):

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Rhines**, to go into Closed Session for ASCFME Collective

Bargaining as allowed under MCL 15.268(c). Yes: Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

Closed Session started at 8:10 p.m.

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

Closed Session ended at 8:18 p.m.

No action was taken on closed session.

16. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Rhines**, to adjourn. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

***Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____