

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 12, 2024
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, Council members Tommy Pratt, Scott VanAllsburg, Steve Jenkins, Dan Rhines, and Terry Hansen. Absent: Brandon Lanyon.

Also present: City Manager John Hanifan, City Clerk Holly Thompson, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Police Chief Jeff Weiss, JFM Productions, citizens Jen Bennett, Ken Szymusiak, Jerry Derig, Justin Henderson, and other members of the public.

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

4. Approval of Agenda:

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

5. Audience Participation:

Jen Bennett commented she is against the Dollar General development proposed on Williamston Road. The drainage issues in her adjacent subdivision are terrible and she is concerned this new development will only increase those problems. She feels the City needs a Communications Director to inform citizens of what's going on in the City. She asked if a traffic impact study and economic impact report could be requested of Dollar General.

Ken Szymusiak commented he would like to research how having the Dollar General and Dollar Tree in Williamston will economically impact the town. He believes the hard questions need to be asked now. A six foot privacy fence is not enough and the development is not suited for that residential area. He feels Dollar General needs to hear the voice of the City to reconsider the development.

Jerry Derig commented he lives south of the freeway and is involved in the group "Citizens for Local Choice" regarding wind turbines. The choice of local government as to whether wind turbines are allowed in their area has been taken away by the State. There is a petition the group is circulating to get this on the ballot to keep the choice of wind turbines at the local level. He does not feel enough studies have been done on the impact of wind turbines at this time.

Justin Henderson commented he has concerns with the Dollar General development and the economic impact it will have on the community. He does not feel they do well by their own employees and the local businesses will suffer greatly.

6. Council Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Jenkins**, to approve the January 22, 2024, minutes as presented.
Motion passed by voice vote.

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Rhines**, to approve the February 12, 2024, accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 77310-77347, ACH 707-742 from dates 01/19/24 through 02/05/24 for a total of \$716,920.83. Yes: VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Senior Center Update:

Not present.

9. Action Items

9a. Letter of Agreement – Police Union Capital City Labor Program (CCLP):

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Pratt**, to approve the Letter of Agreement with the Williamston Police represented by Capital City Labor Program (CCLP). Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9b. OWI Cost Recovery Form:

Motion by **Jenkins**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the proposed “Operating While Impaired” cost recovery form as presented. Yes: Gilroy, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, Rhines. No: VanAllsburg. **Motion passed.**

9c. Resolution to Adopt Property Exemption Eligibility Requirements Income Standards/Asset Test and Application for 2024:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the resolution to adopt the Poverty Exemption Eligibility Requirements, Income Standards/Asset Test and Applications for 2024. Yes: Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None. **Motion passed.**

10. Discussion Items

10a. Road Diet:

Manager Hanifan reported MDOT is supposed to be at the next Council meeting being held at the NIESA building with a larger public meeting being held in March.

10b. Construction Project Update(s):

Manager Hanifan reported there is a lot of telecommunications work going on with Surfnets and Frontier. Consumers Energy is also doing work to their natural gas lines in preparation for the upcoming City construction project on Lloyd and Williams Streets. He expects to have an open house before construction begins about two or three weeks ahead of the project.

12. Department Head Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Hanifan reminded everyone of the Visioning Scheduled on Thursday, February 22nd at 6pm at the Williamston Depot Museum. He has been holding regular event planning meetings for 2024. The DDA will be meeting on February 20th at 6pm and TIFA will be meeting on February 19th at 7pm.

12b. Police Chief:

Chief Weiss submitted a written report for Council review. He added they dismissed a recruit officer in the Police Academy. A full-time position has been filled by Ryan Kuch and Matthew Peetz is supposed to start the Police Academy in May.

13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

Councilman Pratt reported the NIESA Webberville coverage is still being discussed.

14. Audience Participation:

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

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Pratt commented he appreciates people showing up and sharing their feelings.

Councilman Hansen commented it would be good to see a report that provides numerical data.

Councilman Jenkins commented it pains him to hear about communication issues. He added it does not matter what they do, people are still going to be missed. He encouraged people to frequently visit the City of Williamston website to keep updated on information.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented he 100% agrees it is a bad idea. He added the new show at the Williamston Theatre sounds good.

Councilman Rhines commented the role the Council plays in the Planning Commission is that they get to appoint the board members. He stated when the City starts going outside of their Zoning Ordinance it can open them up to lawsuits. There are opinions on how people want to see the town grow, but they cannot hand pick winners and losers and have to adhere to the already established Zoning Ordinance. He encouraged people to follow the City Hall Facebook page and website or reach out to City Hall directly with questions.

Mayor Gilroy applauded the attendees for coming to the meeting. She appreciates their passion about the issues. Most of the properties are privately owned and usually already sold to a developer when the City receives a site plan. The Master Plan update will include a public survey. She reminded everyone there is no parking on City streets from 2am-5am.

16. Closed Session- City Manager Performance Review:

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Hansen**, to go into closed session for the City Manager performance review. Yes: Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: None.
Motion passed.

-Closed Session started at 8:00 p.m.

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

-Closed Session ended at 8:30 p.m.

17. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:

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

***Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____