

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 9, 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, Council members Tommy Pratt, Steve Jenkins, Scott VanAllsburg, Dan Rhines, and Terry Hansen. Absent: Brandon Lanyon.

Also present: City Manager John Hanifan, Deputy Clerk Barb Burke, Engineer/DPW Director Scott DeVries, City Treasurer Tom Mead, Police Chief Jeff Weiss, Outgoing Police Chief Bob Young, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, Auditor Christina Schaub of Roslund, Prestage & Company, JFM Productions, Public TV videographer, citizens Kent Hall, Tim Ludwig, and Jack Smith.

Motion by **Rhines**, second by **Hansen**, 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:

Kent Hall clarified if they go after a federal memorial for Memorial Park it does not make it a federal park, It will always remain a City park. It does allow them to put a memorial monument in the park and possibly get funding.

6. Council Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023:

Motion by **Pratt**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the September 25, 2023, minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the October 9, 2023, accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 77017-77043, ACH 551-571 from dates 9/21/2023 through 10/2/2023 for a total of \$3,671,955.15. Yes: VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Audit Presentation FY 2022/2023:

Auditor Christina Schaub of Roslund, Prestage & Company presented their firm's audit findings for the City of Williamston 2022/2023 fiscal year finances. A written summary and audit were submitted for Council review.

9. Action Items

9a. Resolutions for Social District:

- i. Niko's
Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the social district permit application for Gavrilides Property Management/doing business as Niko's. Yes: Gilroy, Hansen, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

- ii. Tavern 109
Motion by **Hansen**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to approve the social district permit application for Tavern 109 LLC. Yes: Hansen, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

- iii. Williamston Pub & Grill
Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Jenkins**, to approve the social district permit application for Baumgras Entertainment Inc./doing business as Williamston Pub and Grill. Yes: Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Hansen. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

- iv. Zynda's
Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Jenkins**, to approve the social district permit application for 150 East Real Estate Investments LLC/doing business as Zynda's. Yes: Gilroy, Hansen, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines. No: Pratt. **Motion passed.**

The necessary paperwork will be provided to each of these businesses, and each of these establishments must apply for the social district license .

10. Discussion Items

10a. Road Diet:

Engineer DeVries reported MDOT has been going through the process. Once we get a job number scheduled, things will start moving forward. The target completion is to be done next summer.

10b. Construction Project Update(s):

Engineer DeVries said the North Putnam project is going well and is progressing according to schedule. He relayed big news on the re-bid of the road work. The bids came in extremely well and we received seven bids. Four of the seven have done work for the City before. The low bid was from Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc (they did the East Riverside project in 2006). Instead of the 3.5 million estimated for all road projects in April, re-bidding was done, and it saved the City over \$912,000.

The vast majority of people seem to be very gracious with the traffic and are appreciative of the City and the contractor's efforts in keeping as much movement through the area as possible. Iron Horse Excavation has gone well above the call of duty in this process.

11. Correspondence Received / Information Only

11a. Joint Meeting Agenda

There will be a Joint Meeting with the City and Williamstown Township on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 7:00 pm at the Township office located at 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston. Public is welcome.

12. Department Head Reports

12a. City Manager:

Manager Hanifan thanked all Council members for participating in the City Council/Planning Commission work session last month. There is a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting this Wednesday, and next week's meetings include TIFA 2A/2B on Monday, DDA on Tuesday, and the Joint Meeting on Wednesday. He said Mr. Jack Smith gathered information on a tree grant nursery concept and he will work with Mr. Smith on this.

12b. Police Chief:

Chief Weiss said it has been a good week, and he has had a seamless transition working with Interim Chief Bob Young and Vonnie Green. There will be a full-time officer starting in November, Tryon Calkins. A part-time officer will begin next week, Michael Graham. With sponsoring two recruits in the academy, hopefully the department will be at full strength by spring.

12c. Treasurer:

Treasurer Mead said numbers are not exciting, but they are a necessity to show where the City stands. We feel very comfortable with general funds and our governmental funds, we are paying debts down, and have paid off two larger loans this year. Interest rates are good right now, on all funds. It was a good audit.

13. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

Councilman Hansen said the Parks and Recreation Commission meets this Wednesday.

Mayor Gilroy reported the DDA funded the amazing fall decorations in downtown. She thanked Hamelink Farms for doing such a great job. The DDA has good ideas coming up. She reminded everyone of the October 28 Chamber event, Witches and Warlocks.

14. Audience Participation:

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

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Rhines said it is amazing to hear things are going really well with Chief Weiss and also thanked Interim Chief Young for stepping in. He explained his decision on the social district – he voted no last time and does not personally approve, but as the City adopted a social district policy, he voted yes for the social district applications as our restaurants in town are outstanding.

Councilman VanAllsburg commented he is excited about the tree grants and is enthused with the Police Chief transition.

Councilman Jenkins thanked the City Manager and City Engineer for saving the City dollars and appreciates their willingness to dig in and find alternative solutions. He feels good as a Council member knowing staff is looking out for the City's interests.

Mayor Gilroy thanked Interim Chief Young for his service; thanked Chief Weiss for being

proactive; thanked Manager Hanifan and Engineer DeVries for spending tax dollars wisely and taking advantage of qualifying grants; thanked Kent Hall for all he does for Memorial Park. There are many great events coming up. She asked Engineer DeVries when leaf pickup would start – he responded October 16 and branch/limb pickup goes through November.

16. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Barbara J. Burke, Deputy Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____