

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 23, 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 Jeff Weiss, City Attorney Timothy Perrone, JFM Productions, MSU Journalism Student Emily Lantz, and citizen Earl Wolf.

4. Approval of Agenda:

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

5. Audience Participation:

Earl Wolf commented on the annual Veterans Day Banquet at the Brookshire Inn. The tickets are \$30. It should be a great program and speaker.

6. Council Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2023:

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Jenkins**, to approve the October 9, 2023, minutes as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

7. Accounts Payable:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the October 23, 2023, accounts payable as presented, reference #'s 77045-77097, ACH 572-595, and EFT 582 from dates 10/05/23 through 10/16/2023 for a total of \$400,040.55. Yes: VanAllsburg, Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8. Action Items

8a. Appointment of Leigh Baumgras to the Downtown Development Authority for a Term to Expire 06/30/27:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **VanAllsburg**, to appoint Leigh Baumgras to the Downtown Development Authority for a term to expire 06/30/27. Yes: Rhines, Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg. No: None. **Motion passed.**

8b. Early Voting Plan:

Motion by **Lanyon**, second by **Hansen**, to adopt the Early Voting Plan and resolution as presented. Yes: Gilroy, Lanyon, Hansen, Pratt, Jenkins, VanAllsburg, Rhines. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Road Diet:

Manager Hanifan reported the Road Diet money will likely be granted early next year.

9b. Construction Project Update(s):

Engineer DeVries reported the construction project is going well and the North Putnam Street construction is winding down. They are still on target to finish on time. Laux is supposed to be starting to building the new pavilion in McCormick Park next week.

11. Department Head Reports

11a. City Manager:

Manager Hanifan reported the joint meeting had good discussion regarding housing and youth sports programming. The Downtown Development Authority approved funding for holiday lighting and the holiday commercial. The TIFA will be discussing future plans for the TIFA funds being captured. The Parks Commission discussed the draft Park Plan and the survey results.

11b. Building Department:

A written report was submitted for Council review.

12. Committee/Sub-Committee Reports:

Councilman Pratt reported NIESA is discussing their upcoming budget which will be adopted in December.

Councilman Hansen reported the Parks survey turnout was good with top requests for paved trails, ice skating, and a splash pad.

Councilman Jenkins reported the annual informational meeting was held for the TIFA's. They are also discussing ideas for TIFA projects.

14. Audience Participation:

Earl Wolf thanked Engineer DeVries for always being nothing but professional and a great friend.

15. Council Member Comments:

Councilman Rhines thanked Engineer DeVries for all the great work he's done in his time with the City and wished him continued success. He also commented on the joint meeting discussion regarding housing. He understands the school wants more housing but there has not been a lot of interest in developing. He feels this should be a community-wide discussion with all of the surrounding townships.

Councilman VanAllsburg congratulated Engineer DeVries on his new job and wished him the best. He hopes the TIFA finds a use for the Ice House rather than demolishing it. He is looking forward to continued discussion and creative ideas on housing.

Councilman Lanyon congratulated Engineer DeVries on his new job and wished him luck in

Councilman Jenkins commented he has given Engineer DeVries a lot of accolades in the past and feels he always has done what is best for Williamston. He added there was discussion at the TIFA meeting regarding infrastructure funding for residential development.

Councilman Hansen commented he is sorry to see Engineer DeVries go.

Councilman Pratt commented it has been a pleasure working with Engineer DeVries. He apologized for not being able to make the joint meeting.

Mayor Gilroy commented that Engineer DeVries has kept DPW fiscally sound and on budget. She thanked him for being a leader. Mayor Gilroy is excited about the Chamber event coming up on Saturday. She also is proud of all the school teams including the Girls Golf, Boys Tennis, and all the teams that make up Williamston. She feels it's everyone that makes up the 48895 zip code.

16. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair:

Mayor Gilroy adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Tammy Gilroy, Mayor

Date Approved: _____