

**MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD**  
**May 11, 2010**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Baker.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Holvik led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**  
Present: Holvik, Towne, Yoder, Hansen & Baker  
Absent: None
4. **Agenda Review & Acceptance:** It was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to accept the May 11, 2010, agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously passed.
5. **Oral and Written Communications / Public Comment:**

Mayor Baker read a letter dated May 5, 2010, which was addressed to the City Council by a group referring to themselves as “Concerned Citizens for the City of Willows” which letter contained the signatures of 15 parties. In brief, the letter stated that during the Council Meeting held on April 27, representatives of this group were present and brought forth many issues which they wished to discuss with the Council and hear Council’s response to those various items. The items which they are requesting that the Council give their response are as follows:

- Symptoms or indications of a lack of a “pro-business” reception from the City.
- The need for Economic outreach.
- What is the Council’s Vision for Willows?
- The decline of downtown maintenance.
- Pass Through Agreement Accounts oversight, control and internal policies and procedures.
- Signs (The ordinance itself, internal practices and policies in permitting, consistency in enforcement, off-site Marketing and directional signage to the downtown corridor.)
- Intimidation and/or lack of respect from the dais.

Upon conclusion of Mayor Baker’s reading the letter, Mr. Rick Thomas addressed the Council inquiring who is responsible for preparing the agenda and he wanted to know why none of the items that Mayor Baker just addressed were on tonight’s agenda for discussion. Mr. Thomas stated that upon conclusion of the meeting on April 27, he was under the impression that these items would be on tonight’s agenda for discussion. Mr. Thomas also made a request to pull item 6 (c) from the Consent Agenda, which was to “Consider approval of Minutes of the City Council April 27, 2010, Regular Meeting”, in order to allow for additional comments about the Minutes.

There appeared to be confusion among the Staff, the Council and the audience about what direction Council had given to Staff at the April 27 meeting as far as there being an actual directive to specifically place all of these items on tonight’s agenda for discussion. It was recalled that the Council did specifically ask for a sign ordinance discussion to take place at tonight’s meeting, and that item is on tonight’s agenda. No recollection was made by Staff of any other specific Council directive for all of the items to be on tonight’s agenda for discussion. Lengthy discussion then ensued between the Council, Staff and the audience about the various items that the “Concerned Citizens of Willows” brought up on April 27 and again in their letter

of May 5, and once discussions ceased, a consensus of the Council was finally reached and the Council directed staff to modify future regular meeting agendas in order to place these items on for discussion, and at each subsequent future meeting one item at a time will be discussed until each of the "Concerned Citizens for the City of Willows" concerns are addressed. The item the Council stated that they would like to specifically focus on addressing at the next Council Meeting on May 25 was for the Council Members to express what their overall "vision" is for the City of Willows. As items of concern are addressed during future meetings, at the direction of Council, the item(s) will then be removed from the following meeting's agenda.

Mr. Jeff Cobb, on behalf of Willows Elks Lodge 1786, presented Recreation Director Carol Lemenager with a \$500.00 check to go toward the "Keep Our Pool Afloat" campaign.

Mr. Doug Ross, citizen and reporter for the Sacramento Valley Mirror, inquired of the Council what types of downtown directional signs would be placed at Wal-Mart. Mayor Baker informed Mr. Ross that there was a specific discussion item relating to signs already on tonight's agenda and it would be more appropriate that his questions be addressed at that time.

Mr. Forrest Sprague addressed the Council regarding various concerns and issues that he has with regards to the City's Draft Housing Element.

Mrs. Candis Woods addressed the Council to state that the "Shop Local / Shop Willows" bags have been made and distributed to various businesses and she has heard some positive things about the "Shop Local" campaign.

**6. Consent Agenda:** Prior to the Council acting on the Consent Agenda, Mr. Rick Thomas addressed the Council, as he had previously requested item 6 (c) to be removed from the Consent Agenda to allow for further discussion. He indicated that he was not sure what the Council's response would be earlier when he inquired about the agenda preparation and why the previously discussed items were not on tonight's agenda for discussion. This was another way for him to ask what the Council is doing to address these issues. Council discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Council that they had already addressed Mr. Thomas' concerns earlier this evening in their giving clear direction to staff to bring the items back for further discussion beginning at the next meeting.

The City Manager then stated that the Council gave him direction at the last meeting to conduct a survey of Planning Permit Fees and PTA deposits in other Cities and to bring this information back before the Council at a future, non date-specific, time. This had been one of the additional concerns voiced at the April 27 Council Meeting by the "Concerned Citizens of Willows". As of today, the City Manager has received only a few responses from other Cities, which information had previously been given to the Council but there hadn't been any clear direction by the Council to place this item on tonight's agenda. The City Manager indicated that he is still awaiting additional responses in order to be more conclusive with the survey results. He explained that although he has only received a few responses, he could put his request in the form of a formal Public Records request, but the City would have to incur the cost in order to ensure receipt of the requested information from additional Cities. The Council asked the City Manager to make one more additional informal request of the Northern California Cities as not to have to pay for a formal Public Records request. Additionally, Mayor Baker inquired when there might be a Joint City Council and Planning Commission Meeting again. The City Manager said that is something he is currently working on putting together.

Once discussions concluded, it was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of item 6 (c). The motion was passed unanimously. It was then **moved** by Council Member Holvik and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to approve Consent Agenda item 6 (c). The motion passed unanimously and the following items were approved/adopted:

- a) Approval of General Check Register (21579-21666).
- b) Approval of Payroll & Direct Deposit Check Registers (330585-30626 & Z001460 – Z001564).
- c) Approval of Minutes of the city Council April 27, 2010, Regular Meeting.
- d) Adoption of a Resolution approving the Carlene Morgan Trust Final Parcel Map for a subdivision of the property located at 458 N. Humboldt Ave., (APN 005-370-001).
- e) Accept a Notice of Completion for the installation of rubberized bark at Jensen, Central and Sycamore Parks.
- f) Adoption of a Resolution directing the City Clerk to advertise for proposals for the publication of Legal Notices for the City of Willows.

7. **Presentations and Proclamations:** None

8. **Public Hearings:** None

9. **Ordinances:** None.

10. **Items introduced by City Council or Administrative Staff for discussion purposes only:**

- a) The City Manager stated that Staff would like to arrange for another special budget meeting to occur in the near future, preferably during the end of May or the beginning of June. Due to various scheduling conflicts with the Staff and the Council, it was decided that a budget meeting would be held sometime during the day of June 8, which is the same day that a regular Council Meeting is scheduled to occur.
- b) The City Manager stated that there is a meeting scheduled to occur on Thursday, May 13, at 3:00 with certain members of City Staff from Orland, Willows and the County in order to discuss the Animal Control Contract for the upcoming fiscal year.
- c) Council Member Holvik stated that he attended the Museum Open House this past Saturday and had a great time.

11. **New Business:**

- a) Discussion regarding possible adoption of Economic Stimulus Signage Regulation mitigation measures and direct Staff how to proceed.

The City Manager presented this item to the Council indicating that since the adoption of the Comprehensive Sign Ordinance in July of 2009, there have been numerous and repetitious complaints, questions and requests for modifications during public comment periods before the Planning Commission and the City Council. Staff has responded to questions and detailed options for Council consideration to amend or repeal specific sections of the existing code. None

of the options discussed until now appeared to offer the perfect solution for correcting the issues which have been raised pertaining to the existing code.

Staff has evaluated a temporary solution to signage relaxation standards recently adopted by the City of Rocklin and has prepared for discussion a Draft Proposed Ordinance to explore the possibility of easing certain restrictions and requirements of the existing Sign Code. The Draft Proposed Ordinance can not be acted upon by the Council tonight and is intended for discussion purposes only. Upon direction from the City Council, a Public Hearing, as required, could be scheduled for introduction of the Ordinance and directing subsequent actions for adoption. Staff is seeking direction from the Council on the possible adoption of this proposed Ordinance or similar regulation.

Council Member Yoder then presented excerpts of the Red Bluff Sign Ordinance to the Council and expressed his opinion that portions of that Ordinance might also be something that Council may want to consider incorporating into the Willows Sign Ordinance. The Council and Staff discussed the pros and cons of both Ordinances, and the Council also heard public comment from citizens and business owners regarding the two proposed Ordinances. The Council and the public both indicated that they like certain aspects of both proposed Ordinances, but due to time constraints and the Council's desire to act on this item quickly, the fact that the Rocklin Ordinance has already been amended and codified to reflect the appropriate section references of the Willows Municipal Code, and it does not require any additional review or Public Hearings by the Planning Commission, it was the consensus of the Council that the Proposed Ordinance from the City of Rocklin be adopted as soon as possible. However, they did indicate that they could incorporate some of the Red Bluff Ordinance modifications into the Ordinance at a future time. The Council indicated that prior to introducing the Ordinance for first reading, they wish for staff to modify the Ordinance to allow for two portable sign per business, rather than only one as the Draft Proposed Ordinance currently reads. Additionally, it was pointed out that there should be included in the Ordinance a definition of a "Licensed Business", which should be defined as any authorized business which operates their principle business within a permanent "brick and mortar structure" located within the City limits.

Once discussions ceased, it was **moved** by Council Member Holvik and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to allow Staff to proceed with the Draft Proposed Ordinance from Rocklin, but to include two portable signs per business and bring the Ordinance back for consideration of approval of first reading at the next regular Council meeting. The motion was unanimously passed.

## **12. Council Member Reports:**

Council Member Hansen stated that he attended the Museum's Centennial Celebration and it was very well attended. He also stated that he has heard a lot of positive feedback from the Community about the success of the Lamb Derby parade this year. Finally, Council Member Hansen gave a reminder about the Shriner's free screening clinic that will be taking place at Glenn Medical Center on May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The screening is for all children up to age 18.

Council Member Baker stated that the first annual Willows High School Boosters "Century Bike Ride" fundraiser will take place this Saturday, May 15. After the bike ride there will be a Community Barbeque in Memorial Park from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. She also stated that she was able to attend and watch the Lamb Derby parade this year and it was entertaining.

Council Member Towne stated that the book recently written about the history of Willows has been released and the Museum has already sold 100 copies. The books are available for sale during operational hours at the Museum and at several stores located downtown. He believes the books cost \$22.00.

13. **Executive Session:** None

14. **Adjournment:** Mayor Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Dated: May 11, 2010

NATALIE BUTLER

---

City Clerk

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider