

MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
June 23, 2009

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Towne.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Holvik led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**
Present: Baker, Holvik, Hansen, Yoder & Towne
Absent: None
4. **Agenda Review & Acceptance:** The City Manager requested the removal of items 8 (a) entitled “*Consider reading by title only and passage of first reading of an Ordinance entitled ‘An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Willows adding Chapter 9.20 to the Willows Municipal Code relating to truancy/loitering on school days’*” and 8 (b) entitled “*Consider reading by title only and passage of first reading of an Ordinance entitled ‘An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Willows adding chapter 9.25 entitled ‘Prohibition against underage drinking and Social Host Liability’ to the Willows Municipal Code.* He stated that after reviewing the Ordinances and realizing that they involve the implementation of fines and fees, he believes they may require a legally noticed Public Hearing at the first reading of the Ordinance. He plans to review this with the City Attorney and these two items will come back before the Council once at a later date. It was **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to accept the June 23, 2009, agenda with the changes as noted. The motion was unanimously passed.
5. **Oral and Written Communications:** Ms. Rose Marie Thrailkill, citizen of Willows, gave an update on upcoming community and Chamber of Commerce activities, events and fundraisers. She also stated that the Fourth of July Committee is still soliciting donations for this year’s fireworks display, indicating that they have only raised \$5000 and the fireworks cost \$10,000.
6. **Consent Agenda:** It was **moved** by Council Member Holvik and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously passed and the following items were approved/adopted:
 - a) Approval of General Check Register (20183-20236).
 - b) Approval of Payroll Check Register (30048-30067) & Direct Deposit Payroll (Z00525-Z00608).
 - c) Approval of the June 9, 2009, City Council Meeting Minutes.
 - d) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to vote on behalf of the City in Glenn Colusa Irrigation District Elections.
 - e) Adopt a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign a Notice of Completion for work performed under Project #5062 (12), Gateway Monument Signs.
7. **Presentations and Proclamations:** None.
8. **Ordinances:** Items 8 (a) & 8 (b) were removed from the agenda under Item 4, Agenda Review and Acceptance.

9. Public Hearings:

a) Sign Ordinance Amendments:

The City Manager introduced this item to the City Council stating that for over a year the Planning Commission has been working on making a series of changes to the Sign Ordinance (Section 125, Title 18 – Zoning Ordinance). After going before the Planning Commission several times and the Commission making several edits to the Ordinance, the Planning Commission finally voted to pass a Resolution to put the Ordinance before the City Council for approval. The City Manager did point out that there were a few errors with regards to some Section References being incorrect within the Ordinance but stated that the references will be corrected prior to the second reading and possible adoption of the Ordinance, and that only reference numbers would be changed and nothing would change as far as the actual content of the Ordinance. With that, the City Manager stated that this is a Public Hearing and he requested that the Mayor conduct the Public Hearing in order to solicit public comments on the proposed Ordinance. Discussion ensued among the Council and they had a few questions about the Ordinance, which the City Manager addressed. Mayor Towne concluded the discussions by thanking the Planning Commission Chair, Larry Domenighini, who was present in the audience, stating that the Planning Commission did a fine job thoroughly researching and fine-tuning the Ordinance.

Mayor Towne opened the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m. and hearing no comments, subsequently closed the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m. It was then **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen that the Ordinance next in line be read by title only. The motion was unanimously passed. It was then **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to pass first reading of an Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Willows updating and amending Title 18.125 of the Willows Municipal Code of the City of Willows Regarding Comprehensive Sign Law and Repealing in its entirety title 15.45 ‘Signs’ from the Willows Municipal Code”. The motion was unanimously passed.

b) 2009/2010 Budget Adoption:

Finance Director Tim Sailsbery presented this item to the Council stating that the Council has conducted several review and evaluation sessions dating back to March regarding the 2009/10 Proposed Budget, culminating in a budget workshop on June 2, 2009. As part of the budget workshop sessions, the Council received input from, and directed questions to, both staff and members of the public, and as a result, the Council reached a consensus on the proposed budget. The budget, as presented for adoption includes the following expenditure levels: General Fund - \$3,511,207, Special Revenue Funds - \$610,575, Sewer Enterprise Fund - \$1,768,572 and Water Enterprise Fund - \$20,632, totaling \$5,910,985 in expenditures. The proposed budget carries a General Fund operating deficit for 2009/10 of \$255,386 to be covered by the General Fund Reserves currently estimated at \$1.450 million.

Additionally, in accordance with debt covenants associated with the USDA loan for the wastewater treatment plant renovation, 1/10th of an annual loan payment is held in reserve. The amount to be designated for 2009/10 is \$36,000. 2009/10 is the third year of a ten year debt reserve designation. The proposed budget contains a number of operational cuts to the general fund, including reductions in Staff Positions, Wage Levels, Wage Adjustment Deferrals, Operational Expenditures and Capital Expenditures.

As the stability of the General Fund improves, Council has reviewed the various cuts and deferrals and, by consensus, has established an order of restoration as follows:

1. Restore Deferral of contracted 7/1/09 wage increase for Willows Employees' Association positions.
2. Restore Deferral of contracted 7/1/09 wage increase for Willows Public Safety Association positions.
3. Restore 10% pay reduction for those who voluntarily accepted pay reductions.
4. Restore unfunded positions, operational expenditures and capital expenditures on a case by case basis.

This Budget is presented for adoption without consideration of actions yet to be taken by the State of California or the County of Glenn regarding their respective 2009/10 budgets. Should actions taken by these agencies have an impact on the financial status of the City of Willows, Staff will return to the City Council for further budgetary action.

In closing, Mr. Sailsbery stated that this was a painful process which will, in essence, affect the livelihood of the employees, as well as the services to the citizens of the community and he wanted to commend all members of City Staff, the Labor Unions and the Department Heads who all stepped up to the plate and helped make this process run as smooth as possible under the circumstances. He stated that he has always had respect for his fellow employees and this process only allowed him to have an even greater respect for them. With that, Mr. Sailsbery requested that the Mayor open to Public Hearing to solicit input from citizens.

Council Member Holvik echoed Mr. Sailsbery's comments, stating that this certainly was not an easy process but that he was proud that the process was started early and we are at a point in which a proposal is before the Council at this time, when a lot of agencies haven't even begun this process. He stated that he would like to compliment the staff for their hard work in getting us to this point. Mayor Towne concurred with Council Member Holvik.

At this point, Mayor Towne then opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m., and hearing no comments, subsequently closed the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m. It was then **moved** by Council Member Holvik and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Willows adopting the 2009/10 annual budget, designating sewer enterprise fund debt reserve, and establishing order of restoration of budgetary reductions. Prior to the vote, Council Member Hansen then commented that he would just like to state that he is absolutely opposed to the layoff of a Police Officer, which he indicated he has mentioned several times before in previous meetings. He stated that he clearly understands the budget situation and concurs with Council Member Holvik that City Staff has done a great job. He then reiterated that he is opposed to any layoff of a Public Safety Officer. Council Member Holvik stated that he was also opposed to the layoff of a Police Officer, but that something had to be done. With that, Mayor Towne then called the vote and the motion passed 4/1 by the following vote:

Ayes: Baker, Holvik, Yoder & Towne

Noes: Hansen

10. Items introduced by City Council or Administrative Staff for discussion purposes only: None.

11. New Business:

- a) Consider Council Subcommittee's recommendations and, by motion, appoint Adele Foley and Lynn Soeth to the Library Board of Trustees:

Council Member Baker stated that she and Council Member Yoder were appointed to serve on a subcommittee in order to make recommendations for appointment to two seats on the Library Board. Only two applications were received; One from current Trustee, Adele Foley, whose term is expiring, and another from Lynn Soeth. She and Council Member Yoder reviewed the applications and determined that both applicants have the qualifications necessary to serve on the Board. Therefore, it is the subcommittee's recommendation that Adele Foley and Lynn Soeth be appointed to the Library Board of Trustees. It was then **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Yoder to appoint Lynn Soeth and to re-appoint Adele Foley to the Library Board of Trustees for a term which expires June 30, 2012. The motion was unanimously passed.

12. Council Member Reports:

Council Member Baker stated that GWIL would be selling refreshments at the Shelby Club event in Sycamore Park on July 3.

Council Member Yoder stated that He and Council Member Hansen attended the recent Transit & Transportation Meeting.

Council Member Hansen congratulated City staff on their "Bird Harassment" efforts stating that the City was successful in keeping the birds out of Memorial Park this summer.

Mayor Towne stated that there will be a Museum Society Chamber Mixer on July 16.

13. Executive Session: None

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Dated: June 23, 2009

NATALIE BUTLER

City Clerk