

**MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD**  
**April 14, 2015**

1. Mayor Domenighini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Mello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Williams, Mello, Hansen & Mayor Domenighini.

Absent: Yoder

4. **Agenda Review:**

- a) **M/S – Hansen/Williams** to approve the April 14, 2015, City Council Agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed.

5. **Presentations & Proclamations:**

- a) Mayor Domenighini presented a Proclamation Declaring April 24, 2015 as “General Federation of Women’s Clubs Day” to representatives of the Willows Monday Afternoon Club.
- b) Mayor Domenighini read a Proclamation declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” on behalf of Rape Crisis Intervention & Prevention.
- c) Mayor Domenighini presented a Proclamation declaring May 10 through May 16, 2015 as “National Police Week” with special recognition of May 3 & 4, 2015 as “California Peace Officer Memorial Ceremonies” and May, 15, 2015 as “National Peace Officers Memorial Day”. Police Officer Kelly Kuwata accepted the Proclamation.
- d) Mayor Domenighini presented a Proclamation declaring April 19, 2015 through April 25, 2015 as “Administrative Professionals Week” and April 22, 2015 as “Administrative Professionals Day”. City Clerk/Administrative Secretary, Natalie Butler, accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Administrative Staff.

6. **Public Comment/Written Communications:**

Willows Police Officer Kelly Kuwata announced that the annual Peace Officers and & Fire Fighter Memorial will be held on April 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Willows First Baptist Church.

A letter dated April 5, 2015, written by Reggie Boelman entitled “Dog Shit City #2” was received by the Mayor and the City Council. (More discussion on this topic occurred under item #10).

7. **Consent Agenda:**

**M/S – Mello/Williams** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed and the following items were approved:

- a) Approval of General, Payroll & Direct Deposit Check Registers (29401-29456; Z6138-Z06170; 33738-33751 & 34100-34110).

**8. Public Hearings:** None

**9. Ordinances:** None.

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

(Continuation on discussion of topic under “written communications” – Item 6, above)

Mr. Boelman’s letter expressed concern over people allowing their dogs to defecate in the Little League Facility, for which he is the Chief Officer in Field & Maintenance. The Council stated that they are working on some ways to alleviate this problem, by placing signs in the park and also setting up some waste stations. The Council also thanked Mr. Boelman and the Little League committee for all of their beautification and clean-up efforts that they have put into the facility and they stated that the park looks better than it has looked in years. They congratulated Mr. Boelman and the League for taking such pride in their community and the Council stated that they will do everything that they can to try to remedy this unfortunate situation.

**11. New Business:**

- a) Consider recommendation of final approval of the City Council concerning the subcommittee’s recommendation to fund the Willows Chamber of Commerce Special Events/Activities:
  
- a) During discussion at the regular City Council session in December 2014, there was lengthy debate about prior efforts to develop a mutually acceptable methodology to fund Chamber sponsored “Community Events”. A two-person subcommittee consisting of Council Members Mello and Williams, agreed to meet with the Chamber to discuss and revise the “chamber funding request form”. The subcommittee did meet with the Chamber in January and had formulated some final suggestions for approval by the City Council. At the request of Council Member Mello, the subcommittee recommendation report was placed on the agenda for approval by the City Council at tonight’s meeting. Staff is recommending final approval of the council concerning the suggested funding level(s) and methodology of allocation(s) to benefit city support of Community Events.

The subcommittee's recommendation and suggestion for Council's consideration is that the following events be funded with public funds:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks, Craft Fair, Business Expo, Light Parade, Santa Wishes & Decorating Contest.

Recommendation and suggestion for Council's consideration on the following guidelines receiving public funds for the six community events:

**WILLOWS COMMUNITY EVENT    ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT AMOUNT**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| a) 4 <sup>TH</sup> of July Fireworks Event | \$2500.00                          |
| b) 1) Craft Fair                           | \$2500.00 to cover all five events |
| 2) Business Expo                           |                                    |
| 3) Light Parade                            |                                    |
| 4) Santa Wishes                            |                                    |
| 5) Decorating Contest                      |                                    |

**ANNUAL FIREWORKS EVENT:** One payment of \$2500.00 will be exclusively earmarked for this community event separate of other events.

**FIVE OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS:** One payment of \$2500.00 will be earmarked to cover all five itemized community events: The Craft Fair, Business Expo, Light Parade, Santa Wishes and the Decorating Contest.

**FORMAT REQUESTING OF FUNDS:** Two separate independent requests for public funds will be made on a simple letter format as follows, along with the time and date of the event(s).

- a) SUBJECT: Request \$2500.00 in Public Funds for the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Events.
- b) SUBJECT: Requested \$2500.00 in Public Funds for the following Five Community Events: The Craft Fair, Business Expo, Light Parade, Santa Wishes and the Decorating Contest.

**TIME LINE FOR REQUESTING FUNDS:**

- a) FIREWORKS EVENT: Submit request no earlier than 90 days prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.
- b) FIVE OTHER EVENTS: Submit no earlier than 90 days prior to the first scheduled event.

**DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO THE CHAMBER:**

Funds will be disbursed in the same scheme, manner and priority as all other City of Willows finance disbursements/payments. Request will not be expedited unless pre-approved by the Finance Director, City Manager or City Council. Otherwise request will be treated as all other disbursements are treated during disbursement cycle.

Jamie Millen, President of the Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Council and stated that she was very satisfied with the outcome of the methodology of the Council's disbursements to the Chamber.

**M/S – Williams/Mello** to approve the subcommittee's recommendation of their proposed means and method of funding the Chamber of Commerce Special Events & Activities. The motion unanimously passed.

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

- Council Member Hansen addressed the letter from Reggie Boelman regarding the dogs defecating in the Little League Park. Council Member Hansen and Interim Public Works Director Steve Soeth met with Mr. Boelman and took a tour around the Little League Field at Jensen Park. Unfortunately since it is a public park, there is no way the City could fence it off and make it inaccessible to the public. Signs for the park requesting that people clean up after their pets have been ordered and the City is also looking into installing dog waste stations similar to the stations located in Sycamore Park. Council Member Hansen also gave a report out of the April 1 Public Safety Meeting that he and Council Member Williams attended regarding ambulance services (or lack of) in the South County.
- Council Member Mello announced that there will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Toys for Tots on April 17 at Memorial Hall. He also announced that due to faulty sprinklers and the price of water, the first Baptist Church across the Street from City Hall will not be watering their lawn this summer. They hope that without having to spend money on water this summer, they will be able to have funds to replace the entire irrigation system by next summer. He also announced that he attended the Little League Open House and that the facility was very nice and the park was very green.
- Mayor Domenighini announced that he attended a LAFCO meeting yesterday and they approved the Municipal Service Review Sphere of Influence for the Northeast Communities Service District. Mayor Domenighini asked Joe Flesher to give the Council and update on the skate park mural project. Mr. Flesher stated that the paint has been ordered and work and painting of the bowl of the skate park will be getting underway within the next few weeks.

**13. Closed Session:** Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3 the public will have an opportunity to directly address the legislative body on the items below prior to the Council convening into Closed Session. Public Comments are generally restricted to three minutes.

a) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR(S) pursuant to Section 54957.6

Agency Negotiators: City Manager, Steve Holsinger  
Finance Director, Tim Sailsbery

Prior into entering into Executive Session, Willow City Clerk/Administrative Secretary, Natalie Butler, addressed the Council on this Closed Session item. She stated that she has been employed with the City of Willows for 8 years and 5 months and during that time with the City there has been no consideration at all of a wage adjustment for the Administrative/Management Staff. As a matter of fact, most of the Administrative Staff took a voluntary 10% wage cut in order to help the City out financially. This wage concession was never requested or demanded by the City Council, but rather, the City Manager requested the staff to consider voluntarily offering it as a savings to the City. These concessions went on for nearly 5 years. Mrs. Butler just wanted to remind the Council of these sacrifices that most of the Administrative Staff made before they entered into the closed session, as this is something that they might want to consider when discussing possible increases of the Administration/Management wages.

The Council entered into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. The Council reconvened into Open Session at 9:24 p.m.

14. **Report out from Closed Session:** Mayor Domenighini reported that direction was given to Staff and no reportable action was taken by the Council.

15. **Adjournment:** Mayor Domenighini adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Dated: April 14, 2015

NATALIE BUTLER

---

City Clerk

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider