

MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
January 24, 2012

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Holvik.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** John Hearsey led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

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| <u>Present:</u> | Council Members Cobb, Taylor-Vodden, Hansen & Mayor Holvik |
| <u>Absent:</u> | Yoder |
4. **Agenda Review:**
 - a) Council Member Hansen **moved, seconded** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden, to accept the January 24, 2012 Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed.
5. **Presentations & Proclamations:**

Mayor Holvik presented Council Member Hansen with a Mayor's plaque in appreciation for his service as the Mayor of the City of Willows during 2011.

Police Chief Bill Spears presented Certificates of Appreciation to Casa Ramos Restaurant and to the Community Wish Foundation for the generous contributions and support in helping with fundraising efforts for the Police Department's new K-9 program.
6. **Public Comment/Written Communications:**
 - a) Rose Marie Thrailkill gave the Council an update on various community activities and special events that have occurred in the recent past and will be occurring in the future. She also reported that the Chamber of Commerce is currently in the process of revising and updating their Business Directory and they are working with the new Post Master in order to mail the new directories to all residents within the City.
 - b) Dennis James, Local Representative of the Willows VFW Group, announced that the VFW will be hosting a fundraiser on March 9 at Memorial Hall. There will be Bingo, raffle prizes, door prizes, silent auction and other activities. He encouraged everybody to attend.
 - c) Jeff Williams thanked the Council for their service to the Community, but he stated that he did not agree with their decision at the meeting held on December 13, 2011, to approve spending \$18,000 of General Fund monies for a potential tax measure survey to be conducted. He stated he believed the money could have been better spent elsewhere.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

Council Member Taylor-Vodden requested that item 7(c), the Minutes of the December 13, 2011 Meeting, be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately. It was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion unanimously passed.

Council Member Taylor-Vodden then requested that the Minutes of the December 12, 2011, Meeting be amended to include her suggestion that City Staff begin to look into the future implementation of a two-tiered retirement system for new employees hired by the City and that she emphasized the need to investigate these options in the immediate future. The Clerk noted the amendments and it was then **moved** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to approve Consent Agenda item 7(c) with the aforementioned amendments to the Minutes. The motion unanimously passed and the following items were approved/adopted:

- a) Approval of General Check Register (24113-24164)
- b) Approval of Payroll & Direct Deposit Check Registers (Z03164-Z03199 & 31617 - 31640).
- c) Approval of the December 13, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes (with amendments).
- d) Approval of January 10, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

8. **Public Hearings:**

- a) Conduct a Public Hearing regarding the 2011/2012 Appropriation Limit for the City of Willows and consider adoption of a Resolution establishing said limit:

Finance Director Tim Sailsbery explained that annually the City is required to establish its appropriations limit by Council Resolution. The appropriation limitation imposed by Propositions 4 & 111 creates a restriction on the amount of revenue that can be appropriated in any fiscal year. The limit is based on the actual appropriations during the 1978-79 fiscal year and is increased each year using the growth of population and inflation. Not all revenues are restricted by the limit, only those that are designated as "proceeds of taxes" are included.

The City's appropriation limit for fiscal year 2011/12 is \$7,585,732. With qualified proceeds of taxes \$2,801,245 for the year, the City is \$4,784,787 under the limit. The City Auditor has reviewed the worksheets and Staff is asking for the Mayor to conduct a Public Hearing and upon conclusion, for the Council to consider adoption of a Resolution establishing said limit.

Mayor Holvik opened the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m. and receiving no comments, subsequently closed the hearing at 7:21 p.m. It was then **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden to adopt a Resolution of the City Council establishing the 2011/2012 Appropriation Limit. The motion unanimously passed.

9. **Ordinances:** None

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

The City Manager announced that the City of Willows has recently been informed that they were the recipient of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Award for the third consecutive year.

11. **New Business:**

- a) Consider allowing the Willows Kiwanis Club to place banners on Wood Street & Tehama Street in support of military service personnel currently serving the armed forces:

Wade Danley addressed the Council on behalf of the Willows Kiwanis Club. He stated that he currently has a son that is serving the United States Air Force, but that wasn't the main reason for this request. He stated that he frequently travels to the City of Susanville which currently has roughly one hundred banners hanging throughout the City with the pictures of current service men and women. This prompted the Kiwanis Club to look further into this concept because they felt that it represented Patriotism and a very "Home-Town" atmosphere. The more they researched this they learned that many small towns throughout California are doing this to honor their home town service men and women. The Kiwanis Club is requesting the City of Willows to allow these types of banners to be placed at various frequently traveled areas throughout the City; more specifically, on Sycamore, Tehama and Wood Streets. Mr. Danley stated that he has researched the prices of the banners, the holders and other items associated with this project and at this time there are approximately fifteen families who have expressed an interest in doing this. He stated that at this time they are not actively pursuing this until they get all of the necessary permissions from the City and from Cal-Trans (for placement of banners on Wood Street). Once permissions are granted, then he would begin to actively solicit for applications and the banners would be placed on a six month rotational schedule. He stated that in other Cities the utility companies generally volunteer to put up and take down the banners, however, he spoke to the Public Works Director, Greg Tyhurst, who indicated that the City Public Works Department, with the permission of the City Council, may offer this as a free public service. Mr. Danley indicated that the banners would consist of the service member's photograph, their branch of service, and the Willows Kiwanis Logo. He anticipates using approximately 20 poles throughout the City if granted permission to do so.

Council discussion ensued and all Council Members were in agreement that this was a great idea and a nice way to celebrate, support and recognize our hometown heroes. The issue of the banner placement on Wood Street was discussed because it is a State Highway and permission to place banners on a State Highway would need to be granted by Cal-Trans. The City Manager stated that he believed the City had a contract with Cal-Trans in the past for this type of thing, or something similar. He stated that he would try to contact Cal-Trans and see if the City could resurrect the contract. Then discussion ensued about who would put up and take down the banners. It was the consensus of the Council that the Public Works Department would take on this responsibility and that they would do so as a Public Service and free of charge. Finally, the

Council decided that once the first set of banners are hung; they will revisit and review this item after one year to make sure there aren't any problems or issues, and if there are not, the project would continue until such time as the City would have reason to discontinue it.

- b) Consider adoption of a Resolution to allow the Police Chief to apply for the Office of Traffic Safety Grant:

The Police Department is seeking authorization to apply for a grant through the Office of Traffic Safety to conduct directed enforcement tactics to promote traffic safety. The request is for funding some traffic enforcement overtime and radars. The approximate amount of the grant is \$45,000. The grant is good for one year and if successful, the funding would not become available until next October for the 2012-2013. Although the grant has a zero cash match requirement, Council Member Cobb pointed out that the radar units require continuous calibration and that would be an extra expense. Police Chief Spears stated that he didn't see there being any fiscal impact of any great significance to have the units calibrated.

Brief Council discussion ensued and it was **moved** by Council Member Cobb and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to approve a Resolution to allow the Police Chief to apply for the Office of Traffic Safety Grant. The motion unanimously passed.

- c) Consider adoption of a Resolution to allow the Fire Chief to sign and enter into an agreement with Glenn Medical Center to provide medical examinations for Firefighters:

The City Manager stated that this is the fourth discussion that the Council has had on this topic of the fitness and wellness program. This was an item that was initially introduced to the Council almost one year ago and since that time different components and phases of the process have been before the Council. As the City has moved through this process there have been several meetings with the Public Safety Subcommittee and members of the Fire Department and the Volunteers. There have recently been some discussions about certain items that were not identified in the Staff Report or in the Program Guidelines and there was a request that some of those items be codified or put in writing. Staff has prepared a Resolution to identify those items and that Resolution is being put before the Council tonight for their possible adoption. The Resolution would authorize the Fire Chief to enter into an agreement between the City and Glenn Medical Center to complete medical evaluations on Firefighters in accordance with the City's Fitness & Wellness program and it also encompasses the other items that were discussed but not previously identified within the program guidelines.

Council discussion ensued and Fire Chief Wayne Peabody addressed all of the Council's questions about the program. The Council seemed in agreement that this is a good program for the Firefighters and the Volunteers. Council Member Taylor-Vodden thanked Chief Peabody and the City Manager for meeting with her to address her concerns regarding future funding of this program and stated that she is happy with the Resolution that is being presented for adoption. It was then **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Cobb to approve a Resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to enter into an agreement between the City of Willows and Glenn Medical Center to complete Medical Evaluations on Firefighters in

accordance with the City of Willows Fitness & Wellness Program in conjunction with FEMA Grant – AFG EMW-FO-00959. The motion unanimously passed.

12. Council Member Reports:

Council Member Taylor-Vodden stated that she recently attended the New Mayors and Council Members academy in Sacramento and she also met with Assemblyman Dan Logue last Friday.

Council Member Cobb stated that he had a great time at the Fire Department's Installation dinner.

Council Member Hansen stated that he attended the last Transportation Commission meeting, however he indicated that they have been having difficulties establishing a quorum recently and the Regional Transit Committee was unable to hold their meeting due to lack of a quorum. County Staff is going to look into the possibility of both Cities having alternates on both the Transit and Transportation Committees to avoid this type of thing from occurring. He also stated that he attended the Fire Department Installation dinner and had a great time.

Mayor Holvik made a few comments on the Fire Department's installation dinner and he stated that when the City looks at what the Volunteers do for our Community and the money it saves includes both the Volunteers at the Fire Department as well as the Volunteers at the Police Department. He encouraged more members of the community to become involved in volunteering for the Fire and Police Departments.

Council Member Taylor-Vodden stated that the Greater Willows Improvement League (GWIL) hasn't met for a while but one of the items that they had previously discussed was possibly implementing a plan to clean up the downtown district. She stated that she had spoken to the Post Master this morning to press him about the decay of the Post Office Building. It is a wonderful building with historical significance in the community. The Post Master told Council Member Taylor-Vodden that they currently have a contract out to repaint the building, so this is something the citizens can look forward to in the future.

13. Executive Session: None

14. Adjournment: Mayor Holvik adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Dated: January 24, 2012

NATALIE BUTLER

City Clerk

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider