

MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
October 8, 2013

1. Mayor Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Hansen led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

 Present: Domenighini, Taylor-Vodden, Mello, Hansen, & Mayor Cobb
 Absent: None
4. **Agenda Review:** It was **moved** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to accept the October 8, 2013 agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed.
5. **Presentations & Proclamations:** None.
6. **Public Comment/Written Communications:**

The following person(s) spoke during public comments:

Jeff Williams had a question concerning a newspaper article that was published in a local newspaper on September 28. The Mayor addressed his question.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

It was **moved** by Council Member Domenighini and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed and the following items were approved/adopted:

- a) Approval of General, Payroll and Direct Deposit Check Registers (26556-26622; 32784-32808; Z04629-Z04663).

8. **Public Hearings:**

- a) 2013/2014 Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Fund Public Hearing:

The City of Willows is slated to receive Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funding (SLESF) for 2013-2014 from the State of California and has been authorized to receive \$100,000 for the fiscal year. State Government Code requires that the Police Chief submit a spending plan to the City Council for approval after a public hearing that must be held each year. The legislative intent remains the same as previous years and that the funding of personnel is a priority for local agencies.

The plan approved by the Council for 2012/2013 SLESF funds called for using the money to fund a Police Officer position (\$98,646) along with funding for projects/supplies (\$1354). This year's proposal is to again be the primary funding source for a Police Officer position (with the General Fund being used for the remaining personnel cost for the position) and to provide project/supply funds. Council has already approved a spending plan for SLESF funds for 2013/14 via adoption of the 2013/14 budget. The proposal for 2013/14 funds is to use \$96,400 to fund a Police Officer position and \$3,600 for Special Projects/Supplies.

Mayor Cobb opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. Doug Ross, of the audience, recommended that perhaps the Council could consider setting up a special fund with a portion of the SLESF monies that would assist the Police Department in transporting transients out of the City in an expeditious manner. Mayor Cobb closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m. It was **moved** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to approve the proposed allocation of 2013/2014 Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funds. The motion unanimously passed.

9. Ordinances:

a) Adoption of 2013 California Fire Codes:

As part of its periodic review of the fire code, the California Building Standards Commission this year published the 2013 California Fire Code, which becomes effective January 1, 2014. These new Fire Codes are based in part on the 2012 International Fire Code published by the International Code Council, and include the 2013 California Building Code and the 2013 California Fire Code, among other codes. Staff is recommending that the Council read by title only and pass first reading of an Ordinance to amend the Fire Codes. It was **moved** by Council Member Taylor Vodden and **seconded** by Council Member Domenighini to read the Ordinance next in line by title only. The motion unanimously passed. It was then **moved** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden and **seconded** by Council Member Domenighini that an Ordinance entitled **“AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS, REPEALING, REPLACING, AND/OR AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 15.15 OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS MUNICIPAL CODE, TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE AND AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE 2013 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODES WITH THE REMAINING SECTIONS CURRENTLY IN PLACE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED”** pass first reading. The motion unanimously passed.

b) Adoption of 2013 California Building Codes:

Similar to the adoption to the Fire Codes, as part of its periodic review of building codes, the California Building Standards Commission this year published the 2013 California Building Standards Codes which become effective January 1, 2014. These new Building Standards Codes are based in part on the 2012 International Building Code, published by the International Code Council, and include the 2013 California Building Code and 2013 California Fire Code, among others. Staff is recommending that the Council read by title only and pass first reading of an Ordinance to amend the Building Codes. It was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden to read the Ordinance next in line by title only.

The motion unanimously passed. It was then **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Domenighini that an Ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS, REPEALING, AMENDING, AND/OR CREATING SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 15; SUB-SECTIONS 15.10, 15.11, 15.15, 15.20, 15.30, 15.35, 15.50, 15.60, 15.70, 15.75, 15.80, 15.85, 15.90, 15.91 AND 15.95 OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS MUNICIPAL CODE, AND TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE AND AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE 2013 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE**” pass first reading. The motion unanimously passed.

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

11. **New Business:**

a) Allocation of Redevelopment Agency Residual Funds:

As part of the 2011-12 State of California Budget, the State Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, AB 1X 26. This bill called for the dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies (RDA) in California, with the return of funds not specifically earmarked for debt repayment or existing construction projects be returned to the RDA’s respective County for redistribution of tax increment received. These funds were to be redistributed according to the tax rate split for the given area of the RDA.

Now that the process has been completed, the County Finance Department has distributed the remaining funds to the various entities according to the tax rate split for the area in which the former RDA boundaries reside. The City received \$17,725.14 of the original \$60,346.51 sent to the County as a result of the RDA dissolution.

The City remains the owner of the underlying land (parking lots and landscape area) of the former RDA area (the Willows Mall). As maintenance projects in this area will continue to arise, Staff believes that the appropriate use of the residual funds received will be to establish a fund (Fund 331) specifically for mall area maintenance projects. It should be noted that going forward, project costs associated with this area will likely be funded by the General fund once the RDA residual funds have been exhausted.

Once established, the Mall Maintenance Fund would reside under the management of the Parks and Public Works Director, who would seek appropriation(s) from this fund on an as-needed basis for projects around the mall area. Staff recommends the formation of a special revenue fund for this money. It was **moved** by Council Member Domenighini and **seconded** by Council Member Mello to approve the formation of a special revenue fund entitled “Mall Maintenance Fund” (Fund 331) and designate the City’s share of Redevelopment Agency Dissolution Residual Funds of \$17,725.14 to this fund. The motion unanimously passed.

12. **Council Member Reports:**

Council Member Hansen stated that it is an honor and a pleasure for him to once again serve on the Willows City Council. It was an honor when he first was elected in 2008 and when he was also able to serve in excess of his full term, and it is his pleasure to be back. Moving forward he holds no personal animosity or vendettas for anybody – any members of City Staff, or anybody else – and he is on the Council to serve the citizens of Willows to the best of his ability. He thanked the Council for their unanimous support two weeks ago when they voted to appoint him to the vacant Council seat and he plans to continue to work on what he started on during his first term, working as a team. He believes that as a team, the Council can make Willows a much better place to live. It is already a fine place to live, but the goal is to do the right things to serve the citizens of the City to the best of the Council’s abilities and that is his goal moving forward. The last few years there has been a significant amount of turmoil, much of which was financially-based. There was also a great deal of unnecessary turmoil in local government and the City came through that turmoil, in large part thanks to the Management Staff of the City. He believes that everybody learned a lot from that and it is important to remember history, but there is no need to dwell on the past. During his last term serving on the Council, the Council had to make some very tough financial decisions which he believes may have saved the City from insolvency. His goal now is to continue moving forward in a positive direction.

Council Member Mello announced that he would be attending the public hearing regarding the new proposed legislation on allowable Chromium 6 levels in drinking water that will be held in Sacramento on October 11. Council Member Hansen stated that he would also try to attend at least some of the public hearing, as the hearing will be held in the building where he works. Council Member Taylor-Vodden then inquired about the status of the letter to the Department of Public Health (DPH) that the Council recently signed requesting that if the new Chromium 6 standards were to be adopted, that the DPH allow for more time to phase-in compliance rather than requiring immediate compliance, which would be very costly. She suggested rather than sending the letter to DPH, that Council Member Mello could submit the letter in person to DPH during the public hearing since he planned to be in attendance. The other Council Members concurred and it was the consensus of the Council that Council Member Mello present the letter in person during the public hearing in Sacramento.

Council Member Taylor-Vodden reported that she attended the LAFCO meeting this morning.

Council Member Domenighini reported that the Library Board will be meeting this week. He reported that the Friends of the Library raised a little over \$1000.00 last week during their Book Sale/Bake Sale fundraiser. Next week there is a Transportation Commission & Transit Committee meeting that he plans to attend. Since previous Council Member Spears resigned his seat on the City Council, it was brought up that the Council will need to assign a second member to the Transportation Commission. Council Member Domenighini asked if an item could be placed on the next agenda in order to appoint a second member to the Commission. It was the consensus of the Council to place an item on the next City Council agenda to review committee assignments.

13. **Executive Session:** None

14. **Adjournment:** Mayor Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Dated: October 8, 2013

NATALIE BUTLER

City Clerk

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