

**MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD**  
**September 25, 2012**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Vice Mayor Cobb.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recreation Director Carol Lemenager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Taylor-Vodden, Hansen, & Vice Mayor Cobb

Absent: Council Member Yoder & Mayor Holvik

4. **Agenda Review:** It was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden to accept the September 25, 2012, City Council Meeting agenda as presented. The motion unanimously passed.
5. **Presentations & Proclamations:** None

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

As part of the agenda packet there was a letter addressed to Rose Marie Thrailkill from Mayor Holvik. The letter contained answers to a list of questions that Ms. Thrailkill presented to the Mayor at the City Council Meeting held on September 11, 2012. This was an informational item only and no discussion took place regarding the content of the letter.

Chuck Ramsey stated that he would like to see the City try to take back the water system from California Water Service. He said the water rates are way too high and he believes if the City takes it over it would be a financial benefit to the City and the Citizens.

Patsy Carter read a letter to the Council regarding the Council's decision to not renew Police Chief Bill Spears' Employment Agreement with the City and she stated that she intends to send the letter to four newspapers to be published.

Todd Miller, a resident of Tehama County but states he conducts business in Willows, expressed his disappointment with the Council for their decision not to renew the Police Chief's Employment Agreement. He questioned whether the Council had a plan of how to replace the Police Chief's position.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

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

- a) Approval of General Check Register (25072-25142).

- b) Approval of Payroll & Direct Deposit Check Registers (Z03743-Z03777 & 32100-32130).
- c) Approval of the Minutes of the August 28, 2012 City Council Regular Meeting.

**8. Public Hearings:**

- a) 2012/2013 Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funds:

The City of Willows is slated to receive Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funding (SLESF) for 2012-2013 from the State of California. The City has been authorized \$83,000 for this fiscal year. Please note that in Fiscal Year 2011/12 the City received \$117,011, but had only anticipated receiving \$100,000 and only expended \$100,000. As such, the \$17,011 remaining from 2011/12 will be combined with the \$83,000 the City anticipates to receive in 2012-13 to create a total proposed allocation of \$100,011.

Government Code Section 30062 requires that the Chief of Police 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 this year, as in past years, and that is for the continuation of the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund for local agencies for the foreseeable future. The legislative desire for the use of these funds likewise remains the same, in that personnel should be the priority for local agencies.

The plan approved by the Council for 11/12 SLESF Funds, called for using the money to fund a police officer position (\$98.6K) along with \$1.4K in project/supply funds. This year's proposal, is to be the primary funding source for a police officer position (General Fund is used for the remaining personnel cost of the position) and to provide project/supply funds.

Following is a recap of actual 2010/11 and 2011/12 activity, as well as the proposal for 2012/13:

	<u>FY 10/11</u>	<u>FY 11/12</u>	<u>FY12/13</u>
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
Police Officer – Patrol	\$ 26,947	\$ 98,646	\$ 98,657
School Resource Match	\$ 68,348	\$ 0	\$ 0
<u>Special Project/OT/Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 4,705</u>	<u>\$ 1,354</u>	<u>\$ 1,354</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,011</b>

This is a Public Hearing and Vice Mayor Cobb opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Doug Ross spoke during the public hearing and indicated that the proposed allocations of the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funds are a good investment for the City. Vice Mayor Cobb closed the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

It was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden to accept the proposed allocation of the 2012/2013 Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funds. The motion unanimously passed.

**9. Ordinances: None**

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

Recreation Director Carol Lemenager gave the Council an update on the activities of the Police Activities League and she shared the League's purpose, mission and goals. The Council thanked the Recreation Director for all of her efforts and hard work in conjunction with the resurrection of the Police Activities League.

11. New Business:

- a) Consider authorizing the Police Chief to accept the COPS II Grant on behalf of the City of Willows:

Council previously authorized the Chief of Police to seek a COPS II Grant. The department subsequently submitted the grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice and was notified on June 25, 2012, that they were successful for selection for awarding of the COPS II Grant. The specifics of the grant requirements were reviewed with the City Council during the August 14, 2012, meeting. It was the direction of the City Council at that time to table the item in order for staff meet with the Willows Public Safety Association (WPSA) to seek consideration for a collaborative funding alternative. Those negotiations have been completed; with a tentative agreement reached between the City and the WPSA; which is intended to provide adequate funding to cover those expenses anticipated to be in excess of the initial \$50,000 dollar match required under the grant. A companion item in conjunction with this topic will seek Council Ratification of the proposed agreement between the City and WPSA over the four year period associated with the Grant funding obligation.

Under the provisions of the grant, the City of Willows would receive \$195,450.00 funding for a police officer position. As previously stated the initial match for the grant period is \$50,000. The City has determined that the actual city obligation for the life of the grant term is anticipated to be \$209,000. Therefore a funding gap of approximately \$159,000 exists for the balance of the grant period. The WPSA has offered benefit concessions by way of assuming increased payments in conjunction with PERS contributions which were previously paid by the City of Willows on behalf of WPSA members. In exchange for this benefit concession, the WPSA is seeking a four year extension to the current term of their existing MOU between the City and the WPSA. The proposed benefit concessions are projected to reduce the City contributions to PERS by approximately \$162,000 during the term of the MOU extension, thereby achieving sufficient funding required under the terms of the grant.

It is the recommendation of staff that the City Council authorize the Chief of Police to accept the COPS II Grant on behalf of the City of Willows. It was then **moved** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden and **seconded** by Council Member Hansen to authorize the Chief of Police to accept the COPS II Grant on behalf of the City of Willows. The motion unanimously passed.

- b) Consider adoption of a Resolution approving a proposed MOU side-letter benefit concession agreement between the Willows Public Safety Association and the City of

Willows through June 30, 2017, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on the City's behalf:

The City of Willows relies on a number of employee positions to deliver city services to its residential, business and visiting customers in the community. The Willows Public Safety Association (WPSA) is one of two bargaining units that comprise the Willows workforce. This Association represents employees providing vital emergency response and law enforcement services to our citizens in distress. Unlike the majority of other routine city services, these vital personnel function on an irregular business work schedule, and are available twenty-four/seven; working every weekend, Holiday and every time a citizen of our community needs emergency assistance. They are a valued part of the city's overall service delivery team.

Special negotiations to address a unique wage & conditions-of-employment circumstances, identified early in the 2012/2013 fiscal year, concerning concession concurrence to facilitate personnel funding obligations in conjunction with acceptance of the CHRP II Grant have resulted in a tentative agreement between the City and the WPSA. The proposed agreement conforms to the direction of City Council concerning benefits, staffing and other resource allocations approved in the city's current fiscal work plan.

This agreement required acceptance of the COPS II Hiring Grant in FY 2012/13, as approved by the council under the preceding Agenda Item. Therefore, the City of Willows will receive \$195,450 in funding for a police officer position. As previously stated the initial match for the grant period is \$50,000. The City has determined that the actual city obligation for the life of the grant term is anticipated to be \$209K. Therefore a funding gap of approximately \$159,000 existed for the balance of the grant period. The WPSA has offered benefit concessions by way of assuming increased payments in conjunction with PERS contributions; which were previously paid by the City of Willows on behalf of WPSA members. In exchange for this benefit concession, the WPSA is seeking a four year extension to the current term of the existing MOU between the City and the WPSA. The proposed benefit concessions are projected to reduce the City contributions to PERS by approximately \$162,000 during the term of the MOU extension, thereby achieving sufficient funding required under the terms of the grant.

Council discussion ensued and the City Manager and the each of the Council Members thanked the WPSA for getting together with staff and negotiating this good-faith agreement and that the deal is a "win-win" for the City and for the Association, in that it will provide for another patrol officer to be on the streets. The Council especially expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Fire Department as well, pointing out that they essentially gained nothing by their agreeing to concede their benefits, and the staffing level in their department has not increased since the 1950's. The Council also thanked WPSA President, Sergeant Carl Walter, for all of his efforts and hard work to get the association to agree to offer this concession. Sergeant Walter stated that there was not one "no" vote cast by any members of the WPSA where this agreement was concerned.

It was **moved** by Council Member Hansen and **seconded** by Council Member Taylor-Vodden to adopt a Resolution approving amending the existing MOU between the Willows Public Safety

Association and City of Willows by extending the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2017, and defining specific benefit concession. The motion unanimously passed.

**12. Council Member Reports:**

Council Member Taylor-Vodden announced that she plans to attend the 3Core meeting tomorrow at Memorial Hall. She also stated that she was happy to hear that the Willows Certified Farmer's Market plans to extend their season through the end of October.

Council Member Hansen reported that he has attended the recent Transportation Commission and Regional Transit Committee meetings and updated the Council on some changes that are forthcoming relating to the busses and the routes.

**13. Adjournment: Vice Mayor Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.**

Dated: September 25, 2012

NATALIE BUTLER

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City Clerk

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider