

**MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD**  
**September 27, 2011**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Hansen.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Rob Parsons led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**  
Present: Council Members Yoder, Cobb, Hobbs & Mayor Hansen  
Absent: Council Member Holvik
4. **Agenda Review:**
  - a) The City Manager suggested that items 10 and 11 on the agenda be reversed and that the Council tend to the New Business (#11), prior to introducing any items for discussion by City Council or Administrative Staff (#10). It was then **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Cobb to accept the City Council September 27, 2011, Agenda as amended to reverse items 10 and 11. The motion unanimously passed.
5. **Presentations & Proclamations:** None
6. **Public Comment/Written Communications:**

There was no Public Comment received from the audience. Mayor Hansen then read the following written communication into the record:

“August 23, 2011  
To: Willows City Council  
Attn: Mayor Gary Hansen

Letter is to be read during City Council meeting and entered into minutes of the meeting.

Mayor Hansen,  
I am so very disappointed in you! You have some very good people working for the city, and you don't seem to appreciate them. You have not taken time to see and understand what they have done for the City of Willows, most importantly, for the children of Willows. There is not much for the children of Willows to do in their free time. The Recreation Director, Carol Lemenager, has done so much for this city and the people who live and work here. She deserves to have the chance to be heard about her plans for the next 4 years here in Willows. Give her a chance to share them. We moved here in 1965 and not much was happening until she came. Our 3 kids were able to sign up for tennis, basketball and baseball. Later came tennis, swim lessons, soccer and disc golf. We now have 6 grandchildren playing these sports. She has kept the gym open on Saturday for everyone to use. Our youth are not only learning about sports, but how to interact with other people. Carol gives up many weekends to make these opportunities available to children and adults. People like Judge Don Byrd, Harold Von Bargen, Joe Hinton and Brian Eggy would all be able to say they remember being able to play Basketball in the gym

on a Saturday or Sunday because Carol made it available. Now that my grandchildren need these programs, you are ready to cut Recreation out. Each council member needs to come and check out all the people that coach, participate, or watch the programs Recreation has to offer. Come check out all the people that will be affected by cutting the Recreation program. I realize you must make some cuts, we all know that. Now is the time to take a careful look and check Carol's record. All the people she has coached, helped, mentored, kids she has helped be better people. To her, we give thanks and hope she can reach her goals for the next group of kids and adults that come her way. Please, for the next one's to come, keep her and the Recreation Department intact as a part of the City of Willows. Thank you, The Parham Family / The Foley Family."

**7. Consent Agenda:**

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

- a) Approval of General Check Register (23634-23709).
- b) Approval of Payroll & Direct Deposit Check Registers (Z02761-Z02878 & 31384-31456).
- c) Approval of the Minutes of the Willows City Council Regular Meeting held August 9, 2011.
- d) Adoption of a Resolution authorizing the adjustment to the Holiday Schedule and Closure of City Hall for one week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

**8. Public Hearings:**

- a) Conduct a Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed allocation of the 2011/2012 Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funds:

The City of Willows has received the minimum allocation of \$100,000 for Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funding (SLESF) for 2011-2012 from the State of California. Government Code Section 30062 requires that the Chief of Police submit a spending plan to the City Council for approval after the public hearing that is required to be held each year. The legislative intent remains the same this year, as in previous years, and that is for the continuation of the SLESF 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 2010/2011 SLES Funds called for using the money to fund the CSO position as well as the majority of the SRO position. Additionally funds were used for D.A.R.E. and other SRO related supplies and activities, training and overtime for the CSO, the SRO or the Administrative Secretary. Ultimately, the CSO position was not filled during the fiscal year, and as such, a portion of the funding that went beyond the cost of maintaining the SRO was utilized to assist with the cost of maintaining a patrol officer.

This year's proposal is to fund a police officer position and restore some of the funding cut from the operational aspects of the Police Department. With that, Staff requested that the Mayor conduct the required public hearing to solicit public comments. Mayor Hansen opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m., and receiving no public input, subsequently closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. It was **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Hobbs to approve the proposed allocation of the 2011/2012 Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funds. The motion unanimously passed.

9. **Ordinances:** None

11. **New Business:**

a) PERS "Two Year Additional Service Credit":

Effective July 29, 2011, the City entered into a contract amendment with CalPERS whereby the City may offer, during periods of significant financial hardship, two years additional service credit to employees who are eligible to retire. Said offering may apply to specific positions or to an organizational unit (eligible City employees as a whole in this case as directed by Council). The offering of the retirement incentive is to occur, at Council discretion, when mandatory layoffs, transfers, and/or demotions to at least one percent of the organizational unit become eminent. Such is the case with the passage of the 2011/12 budget. Further, the Council will need to confirm its intent not to fill at least one of the positions vacated by these retirements.

Granting the designated period, or "opening the window", is a two-step process. The estimated cost of offering the two year service credit retirement must be disclosed and reviewed. Once reviewed and directed by Council, Staff may return at a subsequent meeting to provide a Resolution to open the window period for eligible employees to retire and utilize the two years additional service credit. The recommended offering period is from October 12, 2011 to March 9, 2012 (150 days). The period must be a minimum of 90 days and a maximum of 180.

At the June 14 Council meeting it was noted that the additional cost for all eligible employees, amortized over 20 years, of providing the retirement incentive is approximately \$477,937. It is anticipated that a minimum of three, with a possibility of up to six employees may actually elect to retire utilizing the incentive. The 20 year amortized cost of these employees is \$71,005 - \$153,826, depending upon the actual number of retirees. PERS will begin charging the City two years from the opening date of the retirement window (October, 2013). Based upon the 3 committed retirements at this time, with replacement of positions not planned, the anticipated cost savings is \$103,000 in 2011/12 and approximately \$182,000 per year for 2012/13 and beyond. With that, Staff asked that Council consider electing to invoke the Two Year Additional Service Credit provision in the City's PERS contract and direct Staff to return with a Resolution to grant a designated period from October 12, 2011, to March 9, 2012 for eligible employees to retire with the two years additional service credit.

It was **moved** by Council Member Yoder and **seconded** by Council Member Cobb to elect to invoke the Two Year Additional Service Credit provision (Public Employment Retirement Law Section 20903) in the City's PERS contract and direct staff to return with a Resolution to grant a

designated period from October 12, 2011 to March 9, 2012 for eligible employees to retire with said two years additional service credit. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Council Member Hobbs stated that she is sad that this is her last meeting and that she has to step down from the City Council due to her relocating to a residence outside of the City limits. She stated that she still owns a business within the City and that she plans to continue to participate with the Citizens for Economic Stability and the County/Cities Economic Development Committees. She is also on a Committee for Regional Branding and she recently attended a meeting with that group that she thought was inspiring, and she is looking forward to continuing to participate in that. She believes that being involved in Economic Development is very important, especially given the current state of the economy. She thanked all of the people that elected her to the Council and said that she was honored to serve. She said that she enjoyed working with everybody on the Council and with staff. She stated that the City has a lot of good employees and that everybody works hard in all of the departments in these very difficult times. She shared that she had the pleasure to work more closely with the Recreation Director Carol Lemenager in her capacity as Library Director prior to her being elected to the Council and that the Council has received many comments and letters regarding the Recreation Department and valiant efforts have been made by the community to assist with keeping the City Pool open and operational. One thing that was brought to her attention that she had conducted some research on and she believes should be re-evaluated or revisited by the Council is the reduction of the Recreation Department's part-time staff by fifty percent. She believes the benefits that the community gets from the Recreation Department programs are very positive but she did think that the adult programs could be enhanced a bit more because the adult softball tournaments and other adult events are the ones that actually help to bring revenue into the city. She believes that the Recreation Department does need that part-time position to help to run effective Recreation programs and to help promote events and reiterated that she thinks this is something the Council should definitely revisit in the future when reviewing the budget.

Police Chief Spears informed the Council that the City was recently notified that they were successfully awarded the USDA K-9 Grant. He also reminded everybody about the upcoming K-9 fundraising events at Casa Ramos and at Round Table Pizza.

Mayor Hansen presented Council Member Hobbs with a Certificate of Appreciation for her time of service on the Council and her dedication to the Community. Mayor Hansen along with his fellow Council Members thanked Council Member Hobbs for her service and said it was a pleasure working with her on the Council and they wished her the best of luck in her future endeavors. The City Manager echoed the Council Members' sentiments and stated that the City has benefited greatly from Council Member Hobbs' service to the City, first in her capacity as serving as the Library Director and then in her capacity as a Council Member. He said that he wished she didn't have to step down, but wished her the best of luck.

At 7:26 Mayor Hansen announced that there would be a short recess in order to hold a small reception for Council Member Hobbs' last City Council Meeting. The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:37.

**12. Council Member Reports:**

Council Member Yoder reported that he attended the most recent Transit and Transportation Meeting.

Council Member Cobb stated that he attended the recent Farmer's Market downtown and he was very impressed with the turnout.

Council Member Hobbs stated that she attended a Regional Branding Committee EDC Meeting and the main topic of discussion was streamlining the permitting process county-wide. She also stated that she was impressed with the State of the City event that recently took place and that it was encouraging to hear about the positive things going on within the City.

Mayor Hansen stated that he attended the most recent Transit and Transportation Meeting and one topic of discussion was the possibility of mobile advertising on the busses. He also stated that he appreciated the Chamber of Commerce hosting the State of the City event and it was nice to hear from the Department Heads about all of the positive things going on in the City.

**13. Executive Session: None**

**14. Adjournment: Mayor Hansen adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.**

Dated: September 27, 2011

NATALIE BUTLER

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City Clerk

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider