



## ACTION MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 23, 2021

*Due to a mechanical error, there will not be an audio recording for this meeting. We are sorry for the inconvenience.*

1. Mayor Domenighini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Gary Hansen.

### **3. Roll Call:**

Council Members Present: Council Members Williams, Flesher, Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Wayne Peabody, City Attorney David Ritchie, Community Services Director Royce Cunningham, Library Director Jody Meza and City Clerk Tara Rustenhoven

### **4. Public Comment/ Written Communications:**

Written Communication sent in by Forrest J. Sprague regarding the Sewer. See attached in the minutes.

Interim City Manager asked to remove item 8a, 8b, and 8c due to no reportable action.

### **5. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of general checking, payroll & direct deposit check registers Z44788-Z44808, 38850-38855, 050958-051001
- b. Approval of minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 9, 2021.

### **Action:**

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Flesher

*Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented above and the following item(s).*

The motion passed unanimously 5/0 carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: Williams, Flesher, Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

### **6. Regular Business:**

Interim City Manager asked that council move to item 6b, 6c, and 6d before item 6a due to technical issues with zoom.

- b. By motion, approve the recommended budget adjustment as shown in the Department Expenditure Table, Column 6.

### **Action:**

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Warren

*Moved to approve the recommended budget adjustment as shown in the Department Expenditure Table, Column 6.*

The motion passed unanimously 5/0 carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: Williams, Flesher, Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

c. By motion, authorize the Solicitation of Statements of Qualifications/Proposals to conduct Condition Assessments of the City's five sewer collection system lift stations and the major process equipment at the Willows Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Action:**

Motion: Council Member Williams/Second: Council Member Flesher

*Moved to authorize the Solicitation of Statements of Qualifications/Proposals to conduct Condition Assessments of the City's five sewer collection system lift stations and the major process equipment at the Willows Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

The motion passed unanimously 5/0 carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: Williams, Flesher, Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

d. Review the Housing Element Annual Progress Report for year 2020. By Motion, direct staff to send the report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and the State Department of Housing and Community Development, as required by Government Code Section §65400(b).

**Action:**

Motion: Council Member Warren/Second: Council Member Williams

*Moved to direct staff to send the Housing Element Annual Progress Report for year 2020 to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the State Department of Housing and Community Development, as required by Government Code Section §654009b).*

The motion passed unanimously 5/0 carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: Williams, Flesher, Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

a. By motion, accept the audited financial statements of the City of Willows as of and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

**Action:**

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Warren

*Moved to accept the audited financial statements of the City of Willows as of and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.*

The motion passed unanimously 5/0 carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: Williams, Flesher, Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

e. Adopt a resolution entitled; **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWS.**

**Action:**

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Williams

*Moved to adopt a resolution entitled; **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWS.***

The motion passed unanimously 5/0 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Williams, Flesher, Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

**7. Council/Staff Reports/Comments:**

a. Staff Reports/Comments:

- Reminder there will be a Public Safety meeting Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> at city hall at 11:00 am.
- Use caution down at the little league parks from the times of 5:00pm-7:30pm.
- Library Director wanted to let the public know that the Library is open. They are still not able to do any programs at this time.
- Jody Sammons gave an update on CalPlant.
- Chief Roger Steinhoff of Kanawha Fire Protection District has retired. We want to thank him for his service.
- Use caution in the area of Green Street and Crestwood, Tamarak, and Sherwood while parents are picking children up from Murdock school from the times of 1:30pm-2:15pm.

Council Member Williams was contacted by a community member regarding a tree in front of Carte Blanche that drops berries. He asked the owners of Carte Blanche if they would be willing to remove the tree and replace it with another.

Council Member Williams asked to place an item on the next agenda regarding placing the City's credit card statements online.

b. City Council Reports Comments: Council gave comments/reports on activities and various meetings they attended.

**8. Closed Session:**

Item 8a, 8b, and 8c were removed from the agenda.

**9. Adjournment:**

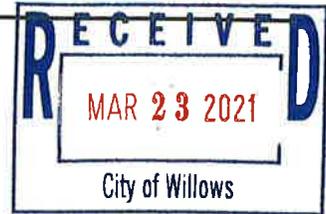
The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Dated: March 24, 2021

---

Tara Rustenhoven, City Clerk

March 23, 2021



To the Willows City Council

Dear Mayor and Council members:

Please read this request during the Public Comment period for tonight's Council meeting.

On your agenda is Management's Discussion of the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Staff's narrative on the matter says that the "net position" of the Fund has decreased by \$436,513. According to the storyline, the decrease in the net position is due to the "decrease in revenue."

Sewer Fund revenue is derived mainly from the annual Willows Sewer Assessment that is paid from our Property Tax Bill issued by the County Tax Collector. For commercial parcels, the Assessment is paid through the customer's water bill. Is staff suggesting that the County Tax Collector or California Water Service have failed to collect Sewer Assessment fees, or have fees been withheld once they were collected?

To propose that the "decrease in revenue" is the cause of the "net position decrease" is illogical for several reasons.

First, the City has acknowledged its long history of failing to pay the Sewer Assessment for city-owned properties within the Sewer district. Since the City claims to have made appropriate adjustments to remedy this failure, the result is an *increase* in revenue.

Second, since June 2020 new houses were built within the city limits and the Northeast Willows portion of the sewer district. Therefore, *more* revenue must have been realized from those additional homes.

Third, we have been told that the Administration charges that in the past were paid to the police department have been adjusted. While not an income, this correction is a net *reduction in the deductions* from the Sewer Fund.

Fourth might be the most salient factor. For many years the Sewer Fund has been unlawfully used to pay for non-sewer related services such as fuel and equipment maintenance costs.

Unlawful charges to the Sewer Fund have included street sweeping, leaf pick up, park and swimming pool maintenance, to name just a few. If those corrections have been made, then the monthly charges to the Fund should *are certainly reduced* substantially. This too, would have caused a net *reduction* in sewer fund expenses.

In light of these factors and for the record, I respectfully ask staff to qualify their assertion regarding the "decrease in revenue."

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Forrest J. Sprague".

FORREST J. SPRAGUE