



ACTION MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Meeting audio is available at the City of Willows website. This is not a live feature. Audio recordings are posted the succeeding business day following the scheduled City Council Meeting.

Please visit www.cityofwillows.org for free PodBean recordings.

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

3. Roll Call:

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

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Marti Brown, Fire Chief Wayne Peabody, City Attorney David Ritchie and City Clerk Tara Rustenhoven

4. Public Comment/Written Communications:

Carol Lemener wanted to let council know that she was offended from some of the things that were said at the prior meeting.

Kathy Baker hopes that the council will give the community a chance and listen to the people.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of general checking, payroll & direct deposit check registers Z45142-Z45174, 38959-38974, and 051435-051494.
- b. Approval of minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on August 10, 2021, the Special City Council Sewer Rate Adjustment meeting held on August 12, 2021, the Special Joint City Council and Planning Commission Meeting held on August 18, 2021 and the Regular City Council meeting held on August 24, 2021.
- c. Appoint Interim City Manager Marti Brown to the Northern California Cities Self-Insurance Fund (NCCSIF).

Action:

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Warren

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

The motion passed unanimously 4/0 carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

6. Discussion & Action Calendar:

- a. Consider options for the process of filling a vacant City Council seat and provide direction to staff.

Council Member Williams recommended going with appointment method two (2) or three (3).

Vice Mayor Hansen recommended going with appointment method four (4).

Tom Brandon, a resident of Willows, feels that the public made a statement in the 2020 election and it should go to the next vote getter.

Council Member Williams suggested if they decided to go with method four (4), they take applications and draw from a hat.

Action:

Motion: Council Member Williams/Second: Council Member Warren

Moved to initiate an open call for applications to all eligible and interested parties and appoint someone from that process by pulling a name out of a hat to all qualified applicants.

Before continuing with the motion, Mayor Domenighini and Council Member Williams wanted clarification on the

The motion 2/2 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Williams, Warren

NOES: Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Motion dies due to a 2/2 vote

Action:

Motion: Council Member Williams/Second:

Moved to appoint the next highest vote getter from the last election.

The motion dies due to a lack of a second

Action:

Motion: Council Member /Second:

Moved to Invite applications from those who ran for Council seats in the last election.

The motion dies due to the lack of a second:

Action:

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Mayor Domenighini

Moved to initiate an open call for applications to all eligible and interested parties and appoint someone from that process in utilizing the interview process in open session.

Before the roll call vote was made, there was council discussion

The motion passed 3/1 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES: Williams

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

By consensus, there will be a 2-week application process and interview all applicants. If there are 15 applicants and under, interview at the October 12th meeting. If over 15, they interview at a special meeting held on October 14th. Council will make their decision on the October 14th meeting and the new member will take their seat at the October 28th meeting.

b. By motion, adopt a resolution entitled; **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION TO TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 100.10.**

Written Communication from Forrest Sprague regarding his opposition concerning re-districting.

Action:

Motion: Council Member Warren/Second: Vice Mayor Hansen

Moved to adopt a resolution entitled; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOWS DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION TO TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 100.10.

The motion passed unanimously 4/0 carried by the following voice vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

c. By motion, approve to commence Regular City Council meetings at 6:00 p.m. (instead of 7:00) starting with the November 9, 2021, City Council meeting.

Action:

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Williams

Moved to approve to commence Regular City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. (instead of 7:00 p.m.) starting with the November 9, 2021, City Council meeting.

The motion passed unanimously 4/0 carried by the following voice vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

d. By motion, authorize Interim City Manager to close City Hall on Friday's, effective October 1, 2021 (until further notice).

Discussion was had between council.

Dennis Asbury wanted clarification on the 9/80 schedule.

Lisa Davis gave her concerns on why she thinks City Hall should be open on Friday's.

Action:

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Warren

Moved to authorize Interim City Manager to close City Hall on Friday's, effective October 1, 2021, (until further notice) and to accept by appointment only on Friday's if needed.

The motion passed 3/1 carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenigini

NOES: Williams

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

7. Comments & Reports:

a. Staff Reports/Comments:

Interim City Manager Brown will possibly have a presentation on the October 28th meeting.

Interim City Manger Brown wanted to thank former City Manager Wayne Peabody.

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

8. Closed Session:

a. PUBLIC COMMENT: Pursuant to Government Code Section §54954.3, the public will have an opportunity to directly address the legislative body on the item below prior to the Council convening into closed session. Public Comments are generally restricted to three minutes.

b. CONTERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Public Employment §54957, City Manager

Council Member Williams had radar gun questions for Sheriff Warren.

Entered into Closed Session at 8:59 p.m.

Reconvened into open session at 9:53 p.m.

Announcement of any action taken in closed session:

No reportable action and direction was given to staff.

9. Adjournment:

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Dated: Sept 21, 2021

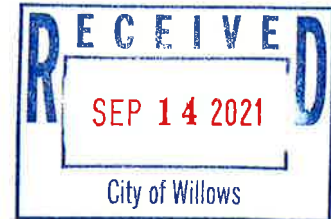
Tara Rustenhoven, City Clerk

FORREST J. SPRAGUE

801 Applewood Way Willows, CA 95988
Ph: 530-514-8700 Email: forsprague@aol.com

September 14, 2021

City of Willows
201 N. Lassen St
Willows, CA 95988



ATTN: Tara Rustenhoven

Dear Tara,

Please provide a copy of the below letter to the members of the City Council before tonight's meeting.

Dear Mayor Domenighini and Council Members:

I respectfully request that you reject City Attorney David G, Ritchie's suggestion to change the current election process from an at-large to a district-based system.

Such a change might benefit other localities. Those towns with a very diverse population, with distinct and differing economic qualities, with people who have competitive if not conflicting interests, goals and objectives for their particular areas.

Although we have our conflicts and differences of opinions at times, for the most the most part Willows is a well-balanced and homogenous community. Creating electoral districts within a city the size of Willows will unnecessarily create conflicts where few currently exist.

I am reminded of the story about a small town that had only one lawyer trying to do business. The first lawyer could not make a living until he convinced another lawyer to move into the same town. Afterward they both became very rich by prompting neighbors to sue their neighbors.

Is Mr. Ritchie's overarching motive to charge the City more for his legal services? It seems that he has a propensity to exacerbate already tense situations and create new conflicts where none existed before his arrival. The sewer fund fiasco and shifting the responsibility of the maintenance of city-owned sidewalks onto the property owners appear to be good examples.

Is this issue another attempt to boost his law firm's income? He admits his idea could cost the City up to \$85,000 to implement; much would likely include his fee. A review of the City's present financial condition prompts the question whether this is a prudent expense at this time?

Regards,

FORREST J. SPRAGUE