



ACTION MINUTES OF THE WILLOWS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 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 Warren.

3. Roll Call:

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

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Wayne Peabody and City Clerk Tara Rustenhoven

4. **Changes to the Agenda:** No changes to the agenda.

5. Public Comment & Consent Calendar Forum: No public comments or written communications.

- a. Approval of general checking, payroll & direct deposit check registers Z45175-Z45198, 38975-38981, 051498-051548
- b. Approval of minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on September 14, 2021.

Council Member Williams asked to pull 5a for discussion.

Roberta Asbury asked for a correction on page 2 of the minutes.

Action:

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Warren

Moved to approve Item 5b as amended.

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

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mr. Williams pointed out that check #'s 051500 & 051511 will be amended from \$250.00 to \$215.00.

Action:

Motion: Council Member Williams/Second: Council Member Warren

Moved to approve Item 5a as presented above.

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

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

6. Discussion & Action Calendar:

a. By motion, authorize Interim City Manager to amend the existing contract with Inframark, to provide all of the City's wastewater treatment services and duties for the remainder of fiscal year 2021-22 and reallocate Public Works Department salaries from the Enterprise Fund to the General Fund.

Council and Staff Discussion.

Dennis Asbury shared his concerns and had questions for staff.

Written Communication received from Forrest Sprague regarding the above item. This will be added to the Minutes.

Williams had questions on the misallocated amounts.

Doug Ross wanted clarification on the \$75,000 figure and the \$175,000 figure.

Action:

Motion: Council Member Williams/Second:

Motion to reach out to retired employees to see if they would be interested in the position.

The motion dies due to lack of a second

Action:

Motion: Council Member Warren/Second: Vice Mayor Hansen

Moved to authorize Interim City Manager to amend the existing contract with Inframark, to provide all of the City's wastewater treatment services and duties for the remainder of fiscal year 2011-22 and reallocate Public Works Department salaries from the Enterprise Fund to the General Fund.

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

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

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

b. By motion, authorize Interim City Manager to close City Hall the week of Christmas-December 20th-22nd.

Discussion. Council gave their opinions on the closure of City Hall.

Dennis Asbury wanted to know how many permits are issued at a normal, every day-to-day basis.

Action:

Motion: Vice Mayor Hansen/Second: Council Member Warren

Moved to authorize Interim City Manager to close City Hall the week of Christmas-December 20th-22nd 2021.

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

AYES: Warren, Vice Mayor Hansen, Mayor Domenighini

NOES: Williams

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

7. Informational Items

a. Public Records Act Request Process

Doug Ross had comments/questions for staff.

b. Street Banner Program

Council Member Williams had questions for staff regarding banners that honor Veterans.

Mayor Domenighini wanted to know if the flags were limited to just the downtown area.

Madelynn Coffman likes the idea of the banners and had questions for staff regarding themes.

Direction was given to staff to bring back as an action item on a future agenda with an update and recommendation.

8. Comments & Reports:

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

b. City Manager's Report:

- An Informational Report for Energy Efficient Lights will be coming to a future meeting.

9. Closed Session:

a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION:

§54956.9 Number of Cases: 2

i. Name of Case: City of Willows v. Lucky B. Wyatt, Superior Court of California, County of Glenn
Case No. 21CV02682

ii. Name of Case: John O'Connell v. City of Willows et al, Superior Court of California, County of Glenn
Case No. 20CV02511

Entered into closed session at 8:49 p.m.

Reconvened into open session at 9:14 p.m.

Announcement of any action taken in closed session:

Mayor Domenighini reported no reportable action and direction was given to staff.

10. Adjournment:

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Dated: October 18, 2021

Tara Rustenhoven, City Clerk

FORREST J. SPRAGUE

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

September 28, 2021



City of Willows
201 N. Lassen St
Willows, CA 95988
ATTN: Tara Rustenhoven

Dear Tara,

I am unable to attend tonight's City Council meeting. Please ask that my comments be read into the public record during the discussion on Item #6a.

Dear Mayor and Council members:

I commend the new Interim City Manager for her proactive efforts to get better control of the City's past accounting practices. I especially appreciate her desire to make sense of the expenditures from the Sewer Fund. Records show that monies used from the Sewer Fund have been misused for decades.

However, I have to question the logic behind the recommendation to pay up to \$75,000 to the contractor to take over the operation and maintenance of the in-town portion of the City's sewer system.

Even though they were paid for over 7,000 hours per year, upon review of the Public Works Departments timecards, it is evident that the three and four public works employees, who were paid from the Sewer Fund, actually spent less than 100 hours per year maintaining the in-town portion of the sewer system. The balance of their time was devoted to tasks that should have been charged to the City's General Fund.

I would suggest that before the City modifies its contract with Inframark, staff and the Council review the past 10 years of public works employee timecards. Then you can calculate the average amount of hours really needed to maintain the in-town portion of the sewer system. Then and only then, can staff determine the accurate amount to cover all expenditures that should rightly be paid from the General Fund.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,

FORREST J. SPRAGUE