

**CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA**

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
PLACE: WILLISTON CITY COUNCIL ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat  
President Charles Goodman  
Vice-President Nancy Wininger  
Councilman Tim Hass  
Councilman Kori Lamb  
Councilman Elihu Ross

OTHERS:

City Manager Scott Lippmann  
City Clerk Frances Taylor  
City Attorney Fred Koberlein

OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ITEM – 1 – ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ITEM – 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ITEM – 3 – CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES: MARCH 7, 2017 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING (pp 3–10)

ITEM – 4 – OLD BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION: NEW CONSTRUCTION DESIGN STANDARDS – GUIDELINES  
VERSUS REQUIREMENTS REQUESTED BY VICE PRESIDENT WININGER
- B. DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES): IMPROVEMENT OF COUNCIL, STAFF AND  
BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

ITEM – 5 – NEW BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION: SIGN ORDINANCE PERMITTING PROCESS AS REQUESTED  
BY MR. STEVE DIBBLE

ITEM – 6 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ITEM – 7 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM – 8 – ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda

2

March 21, 2017

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Council Meeting Procedures for members of the Public

1. All cell phones to be turned off when entering the Council Chambers;
  2. Once the audience has taken their seat and the meeting begins, there will be no talking between audience members during the course of the Council meeting. If anyone continues to talk within the audience and is called down 3 times during the course of the meeting, on the third time that person will be escorted out of the Council meeting;
  3. The audience must be recognized by the President before being allowed to address the Council;
  4. The member of the audience that is recognized will proceed to the podium, state their name and then proceed with their comments;
  5. The audience member will be limited to not more than 5 minutes to speak based on Resolution 2003-14;
  6. There will be no personal attacks made by any member in the audience toward a sitting Councilperson, and likewise for any sitting Councilperson;
  7. There will be no conversation between a member of the audience that has been recognized and any other member of the audience when speaking while at the podium;
  8. If an audience member wants to speak more than the allotted 5 minutes allowed then that person should make a request to City Hall so that the item may be placed on the agenda.
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Minutes of the City Council meeting may be obtained from the City Clerk's office. The minutes are recorded, but not transcribed verbatim. Persons requiring a verbatim transcript may make arrangements with the City Clerk to duplicate the recordings, or arrange to have a court reporter present at the meeting. The cost of duplication and/or court reporter will be borne by the requesting party.

In accordance with Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, notice is given that if a person wishes to appeal a decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting they will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Mayor through the City Clerk's office no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
PLACE: WILLISTON CITY COUNCIL ROOM

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat  
President Charles Goodman  
Vice-President Nancy Wininger  
Councilman Tim Hass  
Councilman Kori Lamb  
Councilman Elihu Ross

**OTHERS:**

City Manager Scott Lippmann  
City Clerk Frances Taylor  
City Attorney Fred Koberlein

**OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Hethcoat led in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**ITEM – 1 – ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Vice President Wininger moved to approve the Agenda. Councilman Lamb seconded. On vote, the motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

**ITEM – 2 – MAYOR’S STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION**

Mayor Hethcoat presented the Mayor’s Student of the Month Award to Savannah Langworthy of Williston Central Christian Academy and Dylan Byrne of Williston Middle School for Academic Excellence and Achievement.

**ITEM – 3 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Mae Fox thanked the Council for honoring the students. She advised that she was in a town hall meeting and requested a trash can be placed at the tennis courts. She stated has been picking up a large amount of trash from that area. City Manager Lippmann confirmed that garbage cans would be placed in the location as requested. Mrs. Fox stated that she had attended a meeting the prior evening about City codes. Her understanding was that the current City codes that are in place are not being enforced. She questioned if the City needed to employ another code enforcement officer. Vice President Wininger explained that the code enforcement officer, Wayne Carson, could probably find 80 properties that were out of compliance to one degree or another. She noted that he cannot enforce every single violation that occurs. She pointed out that there are those that do not have the means to be in compliance that Mr. Carson collects information on to try and obtain assistance. She stated the desire for Williston to be a City with heart. She commented that the Council did not want to condemn properties or have the City become a realtor. She recalled that she had asked Mr. Carson if the City needed another code enforcement officer and he advised her it did not. Vice President Wininger stated that she felt encouraged after talking to Mr. Carson earlier in the day even though there are still issues. She explained that she held a third meeting with the owners of Block 12 and they are in agreement, excited about the progress and are willing to help with the appearance and compliance issues. Mrs. Fox stated her main concern was about the building in the area of 5th where there are pieces of metal flying off the roof. She expressed a concern about the potential hazard to people passing by. Vice President Wininger suggested inquiring with the code enforcement officer develop a list of properties that put citizens at risk. Mayor Hethcoat concurred that

CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

2

March 7, 2017

the Council wanted to be a City with heart and help people if possible. He added, however, that there are other places that have been on the list for over 5 years and they have done nothing. He noted that it creates a problem when local homeowners have a nice home that they put on the market but potential buyers determine that they cannot buy it because of the surrounding property issues. The owners then cannot sell their house and their property is devalued. He concluded that someone will have to address those long-term issues. Mrs. Fox advised that her concern was primarily related to commercial properties. Mayor Hethcoat agreed commercial properties should be addressed but added that residential is a concern too because of the way those properties can devalue surrounding properties and the community. Mrs. Fox advised that she did have friends come in the community and look at a house. They liked the house but did not like the way the community looked. As people drive in, they see the litter along the roads. Mayor Hethcoat advised that, on Saturday, March 25th at 2 pm, the City will be participating in a county/city work day to clean some of that litter up. He encouraged people to volunteer to help. Mrs. Fox stated she picks up litter every day. President Goodman recognized and commended her for picking up trash from others on a regular basis. He acknowledged that there are citizens that care and are trying to contribute. He noted that the Council is doing what it can. Without citizen involvement and taking personal pride in the community, the City does not have a chance. There are citizens like Mrs. Fox that go the extra mile and Council appreciates them. Mrs. Fox stated she did not make those efforts to be recognized. Mayor Hethcoat stated that is why the Council appreciates it so much; because she does not do it to be recognized, she does it to keep the community clean.

ITEM – 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Ross moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Hass seconded. On vote, the motion carried, 5-0.

A. MINUTES: FEBRUARY 21, 2017 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

ITEM – 5 – OLD BUSINESS

A. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: FOR A GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT

City Manager Lippmann explained that the RFQ item was informational for the Council. The staff has not reviewed the engineer of record relationships since 2005. There are currently two engineers of record: Burrell Engineering and Jones Edmunds who are both doing good work. However, the staff would like to widen the scope and be able to solicit some additional engineering expertise to meet the needs of the City. Staff proposes to issue an RFQ for general engineering services and evaluate the responses in order to select an additional firm or two to add to the existing engineers of record. The current engineers of record contracts are still in full force. President Goodman questioned if there would be any conflict of interest. City Manager Lippmann confirmed there would not be any conflict and that the City could issue the RFQ to expand its horizons. He explained that engineering firms provide access to funding sources. They research the grants among various disciplines. President Goodman verified with City Manager Lippmann that staff was looking for a proactive engineer who will search for grant opportunities. City Manager Lippmann noted that any of the big regional firms will deal with water and wastewater but he would like to see one that also deals with storm water, as well. He advised that the RFQ is presented for Council's review for comments. He stated he had conferred with the City Attorney. There will be a few changes and staff will come back with a resolution for Council if there is a consensus. City Attorney Koberlein explained that, generally, the administrator and the department heads would issue an RFQ and let Council know that a project is coming back and bring the providers and their suggestions to the members. Council would then take their suggestion and act on a resolution to contract with the provider. Vice President Winingar asked if the City would be keeping the two current contracts and questioned how staff would

CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

3

March 7, 2017

decide who gets the work. City Manager Lippmann advised that, if there were two similarly qualified firms, they would work based on a rotation. If it is a job with a small scope, Burrell Engineering would come into play or, as an option, larger firms could subcontract to Burrell. Mayor Hethcoat stated he wanted to thank Mr. Lippmann for bringing the item to Council and noted that the information provided falls under communication.

ITEM – 6 – NEW BUSINESS

A. REPORT: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Bruce Schupp, representing the Board of Adjustments and Code Enforcement (BACE), addressed the Council. He advised that Planning and Zoning met jointly with the BACE and the CRA to discuss the fate of the Chapter 48 rewrite and, in general, efforts the City government makes to clean up the City and make things better. The BACE was surprised to learn that the problem, according to Planning and Zoning, is enforcement and not the code and that the Chapter 48 rewrite is essentially superfluous and unnecessary. The group determined that the Planning and Zoning Commission will look at the latest draft and will pursue changes if they find something they think might be worthy of an amendment to the existing code. The issue, as it stands, has not been brought back to the BACE. President Goodman acknowledged that Mr. Schupp and the BACE members worked very hard on the revisions and he expressed his appreciation for that hard work and effort. Mr. Schupp stated his suspicion that, going forward, the BACE is probably out of the business of writing code. They may conduct audits of enforcement. One option is that the board may come back and formally submit the final draft of Chapter 48 to Planning and Zoning for review. He noted the need to do a better job of communicating between the Council, committees and boards. He stated the BACE members learned, at the joint meeting, that the Planning and Zoning Commission had no idea what the BACE was doing with regard to Chapter 48 before it was presented to them. Reporting is a good start but the members need to do a better job of sharing information and communicating between the boards. Mr. Schupp emphasized the importance of attending the meetings or reading the newspaper.

Vice President Wininger stated she put the board reporting item on the agenda for that reason. She asked how they should continue, moving forward. She stated she planned to put board reports on the agenda on a regular basis just to ensure the information is shared. She questioned how the boards function if they are not talking to each other and noted that it takes a lot of effort and work. She advised that the City Council is not well attended. Mr. Schupp concluded that it was not difficult, the board members just need to attend the Council and board meetings. He suggested that board and Council meeting attendance should be made mandatory. He suggested that each board send a representative to every other board and ensure that there is a regular item on the City Council agenda to make a report. Vice President Wininger stated she did not feel that she could make the best decision if she did not have full information. She recognized the BACE is complaint driven but questioned if it could be proactive in helping people with compliance. Mr. Schupp stated the need for Council to take control. He suggested that the Council determine what needs to be done to make the government work better and tell the boards to do it. He concluded that the boards will likely have more joint meetings but the best way is to make it a rule and make the members do it. Vice President Wininger agreed that the boards report to the Council. If the members do not know what everyone else is doing, she questioned how they could serve the citizens the way that they should. Mr. Schupp encouraged the Council to tell the boards what to do and give them assignments. Vice President Wininger pondered the usefulness of holding a workshop with all boards in a meeting with the City Council. Mr. Schupp commented there would be too many representatives with too many moving parts. Vice President Wininger stated her desire to ensure that everyone receives the same information. Mr. Schupp cautioned the Council not to take on too much and encouraged the members to assign items to the boards, make it mandatory and the boards could take the instruction and go from there. The boards can

CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

4

March 7, 2017

decide when they would need a joint meeting. Vice President Wininger stated her preference for a Council workshop setting because every member of each board will have input. She pointed out that there was only one CRA member in attendance at the joint board meeting. Mr. Schupp verified that others were invited to attend and noted that if the objective is everyone could be heard, a workshop session would accomplish that. However, in the context of effective and efficient government, increased communications would accomplish that goal. Mayor Hethcoat stated that the results of what the boards do come to Council. The boards should be hearing from the Council in terms of what the Council expects and wants them to do. Vice President Wininger agreed that should occur sooner rather than later. She added that she did not think the Council should allow the issue to drop and should decide what the next step should be.

**B. REPORT: COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Dr. Ken Schweibert, CRA Chairman, addressed Council. He stated his agreement with much of the input Mr. Schupp had provided. He recalled that, when the CRA was formed in 1999, the board adopted plans and architectural guidelines that were never reviewed by Council. There have been numerous turnovers of Council and those guidelines have never gone to the planning board. He noted that if they had, the Walgreens would not look the way it does currently. The CRA adopted those ideas and they were never implemented. The CRA is going through a real ordeal with Block 12. The board put all other CRA projects on hold for Block 12. However, he expressed a concern about putting a half million dollars into the project with no assurances that it would make a difference. He concluded that the CRA will have to work that out. He noted his appreciation for Vice President Wininger's efforts to try to orchestrate some consensus among the property owners. It has to be economically viable. The CRA is doing the best it can. Resources are limited. The CRA receives between \$170,000 and \$180,000 from the Tax Increment Financing. There is enough to cover the Block 12 project but then the fund would be wiped out and that project would eliminate other improvements that the CRA had hoped to make in Heritage Park that could have an impact on the face of Williston. He stated his agreement with the idea that some coordination among the boards is necessary. Nothing has been done to implement the guidelines over the past 18 years into codes that would be compatible with Williston. He stated he has been an advocate for appearance standards that are compatible with the community. If people can get away with minimum standards, they will, because it is cheaper. Vice President Wininger asked what the process entails when a business comes in like Walgreens did to develop in Williston. City Planner Lodder noted that the Auto Zone case was a by-right scenario and did not have to go through zoning. Vice President Wininger questioned that the City does have the right to say it should look like Williston. City Planner Lodder noted that the City has guidelines in Section 64 that suggest what the City would want a new business to look like. The guidelines were set up after the Walgreens was built. Mayor Hethcoat agreed and asked how the members would know if staff has suggested the guidelines be followed if the Council does not get a report of what happened. Vice President Wininger questioned if the provisions were a guideline or a requirement. City Manager Lippmann advised that it is not a requirement. When Planner Hall was on staff, the City added the appearance preferences for commercial development in the CRA district. In the current ordinance, the preferences are suggestions, not requirements. President Goodman recalled that it was an attempt at keeping a hand on the commercial development and the concern was that if the City made it too difficult, businesses would back off of coming in to Williston. Vice President Wininger stated she would like to reopen the issue. President Goodman suggested that she place the issue on the agenda. Vice President Wininger asked City Clerk Taylor to place it on the next agenda.

Vice President Wininger noted a concern about the expense of the Block 12 project. She stated she wanted the businesses there to grow but questioned how Dr. Schweibert would feel as the chair of the CRA about spending \$500,000 if there is no growth. Dr. Schweibert commented that it is painful. The project requires the board to put other projects on hold. The City is vested, but the finished product is

CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

5

March 7, 2017

more than they had estimated. Mayor Hethcoat questioned if the project could be sent back and revised at a much lower cost. City Manager Lippmann stated it was not likely. He advised that Utilities Director Zimoski looked at the bid documents and is of the opinion that the City can reduce the cost. However, the estimate is that it would still be \$440,000 at minimum.

Councilman Lamb asked if the owners had put forth any interest in investing in their own properties. Vice President Wininger advised that the owners are willing and that they had talked about painting and a color scheme. Mr. Pessa, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Johnson attended some of the meetings but they had not met with every owner all together. The owners present did indicate that they would be willing to give the required information to the USDA. They were willing to continue to talk to each other but there is no plan in place. Councilman Lamb agreed that the businesses need a parking lot but he felt it was overreaching to invest a half million dollars on the project, especially if they are not willing to implement some type of façade changes. Vice President Wininger noted she believed that the commitment to the project may improve their businesses and may be the key. President Goodman recalled that the Council had crossed that bridge when it approved the project to begin with and made the decision to purchase the properties. The Council had no assurances that those businesses were going to do anything. The prior Council and CRA looked at the proposal and decided it wanted to improve Williston as a sign of good faith, to instill some pride into the owners there and give them an incentive. If the City does not find a means to improve it, there will be a brand-new city hall staring at one of the least impressive business areas in the city. The Council invested tax payer dollars and CRA time. Business owners came to the Council multiple times and asked when the City would get this done. The signs are good but the Council is not going to get a guarantee. The City is vested and the Council entered into this with eyes wide open in an attempt to improve Williston. Mayor Hethcoat noted that since the City cleaned that property, there are several cars that are utilizing the parking lot every day. There is definitely a need. Dr. Schweibert added that part of that plan is also to improve the circulation around the block and the parking on the street with lighting and landscaping to make it look better and make it more attractive. The hope was that the improvement would be a seed to entice businesses to come in to the area. When FDOT widened the road, they eliminated access off of HWY 27 that affected a lot of businesses along Noble avenue and the City must address it.

C. REPORT: PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Mr. Matt Marino addressed Council on behalf of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Historic and Beautification Commission. He thanked Mr. Schupp for his hard work on Chapter 48 and City Planner Lodder, who has assisted the board in bringing some key issues to their attention. He advised that Planning and Zoning members attended a training recently that enlightened them further as to the position, responsibility and involvement in the community that is expected of the board as a quasi-judicial body. He cited the need for city email addresses and noted that the people on the boards are at risk personally, in the event that they commit a sunshine law violation. He stated his understanding that if any member is using personal email for city business, then anything that is sent to that email address is subject to scrutiny. The members highly recommended establishing a City email address for the members. President Goodman verified with City Clerk Taylor that board members did not have City email accounts. City Clerk Taylor noted that the board members have never had City email accounts. She stated the policy has been that response to any city-related messages includes a carbon copy sent to staff in order to capture the communication. She added that, in observance of sunshine provisions, the members should not communicate by email with one another directly. Mr. Marino stated that the email was a suggestion of the individual who conducted the class. President Goodman advised that he was not aware the board members did not have City email accounts. Mr. Marino stated that City Planner Lodder had advised him that the main concern is that if someone from the public was to begin correspondence to a member of the board, and those communications became an issue, the member would literally have to forfeit their entire personal account and personal emails would become public. Mr. Marino added that the sunshine law was

CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

6

March 7, 2017

referenced during the class and that City Planner Lodder would be setting them up with a training on that topic in the future. He advised that a Rural Economic Development Initiative meeting was forthcoming and the City's Comprehensive Plan is coming up for review. The Historical and Beautification Committee held its first meeting which was focused on the Chapter 48 discussion and, while they admired the effort, it did not improve upon the existing ordinance. The members believe that enforcement is the key to this policy. A lot of people that were involved in that conversation did not understand that the process is a complaint driven process. Understanding that process, the members believe that Chapter 48 is sufficient the way it is. They will review the latest installment and see if there are some items they can add to Chapter 48 like a more detailed penalty and fine structure. The members determined that they will need to go through the LDR and make sure they are not duplicating items or creating any conflict of interest. The members foresee eventually ending up in litigation with a non-compliant party. At that point, lawyers can litigate on the City's behalf with proper procedures, documentation, etc. in place. If the City can make a good example out of one entity, at that point, it might encourage others to fall in line. He advised that the board looked favorably on the monthly update to Council and felt it was a great idea. He stated he was not sure that they would recommend a report at every meeting or that every member attend every meeting, but he would recommend once a month report of every board to Council. President Goodman noted his agreement, adding that he liked the once a month format and concluded that Council will bring that to the agenda. He commented that he believed most members would agree that Council needs to improve.

ITEM – 7 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Marvin Johnson addressed Council. He stated his appreciation for the explanation to those in attendance that the City went into the property development with no promises. He asked what the Council would like the owners to do, adding that they had discussed plastering the façade and installation of rain gutters. Mayor Hethcoat questioned if the owners want people to enter the businesses through the back door and whether they would be willing to fix up around the doors, construct a sidewalk and install landscaping out to the parking lot. It is a place where there will be electrical coming in but he had seen some examples of similar spaces that are attractive and serviceable. The City would need an answer as to whether the owners intend for the customers to use the back of the building for entry in to the facility and if those businesses are going to maintain the property according to code. Mr. Johnson advised that those questions came up in the Block 12 owner meeting. There are some that cannot use the back of the building because some individual owns 18 inches of space. He noted that if the City were to put businesses out, the City will lose the businesses that are there. If the City is not going to do anything, it should not have wasted the money getting into this issue. There are not a lot of easy answers but there is too much invested to turn it around at this point. Mayor Hethcoat agreed that it is a little late to get cold feet on this project. Vice President Wininger advised that she was encouraged after talking with the owners. The problem with enforcement is that the City can enforce safety but not beauty. The City cannot require them to install awnings. She stated her understanding of the difficulty but concluded she remained encouraged about the momentum. City Manager Lippmann cautioned that the administration needs to distinguish between the property owners and those that have businesses. People have been using those terms interchangeably but they are not the same. There is a distinction between the property owners and the business owners.

Mr. Bob Schmidt addressed Council and advised that he had not heard any mention of the positive side of constructing the parking lot. It will serve to accommodate the Peanut Festival and other Heritage Park events. It will help draw people into town. It is a gamble, but it is a step, in addition to the small steps that have already been taken. He asked about process for individuals interested in leasing commercial properties. He questioned if the parties would need to sign the lease and then go to the City for a certificate of occupancy or if the City would require the owner to bring the building to code before the lease is signed. President Goodman stated that the City cannot get into the business of making people



CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

7

March 7, 2017

more educated in what they should do to sign a lease. If a business is renting a location, the business owner should take the time to learn what the ramifications are. Mr. Schmidt stated that Vice President Wininger indicated there were positive steps taken with regard to Block 12. He added that he had heard from one of the larger owners as to how excited he is about the proposals. This owner had asked Mr. Schmidt to do some things for him there, which is a positive. The code enforcement issues may take a couple of months to pan out. However, it is important to identify loopholes and strengthen the code. Those steps should be taken with fairness and consistency. He pointed out that there are new homes being built in town and that Williston Crossings has over 800 occupants. He encouraged the members to keep the positive momentum going.

ITEM – 8 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Goodman announced that the Council fully recognizes the need to improve communication with staff and the various committees. He stated it was his understanding that they would have a discussion of ways to improve communication on the agenda. It is something that he would like on every agenda that will be limited to a 10-minute discussion. He suggested that if the members have ideas, they should bring them to the Council in a concise form so they do not unnecessarily monopolize the time of others. It will be a time to suggest ideas that will improve and better facilitate communications between staff, Council and committees. He emphasized the need for submitters to be concise. He stated that he will put the gavel down after 10 minutes if the Council does not adhere to the rules.

Councilman Hass asked how many parking spots were included in the Block 12 proposal. City Planner Lodder stated that there were 62. President Goodman suggested that the City Planner provide Councilman Hass and Councilman Lamb with a plat of the proposal. Mayor Hethcoat requested one, as well. President Goodman noted that democracy is messy and requires hard work. Council and committee seats turn over and the members must continually work to get people up to speed. Councilman Hass questioned if upkeep would be the responsibility of the City since the City bought the property to construct the parking lot. There was discussion about specific provisions regarding upkeep. Councilman Hass questioned how far the parking lot was located from the building. Dr. Schweibert advised that the distance was approximately 5 feet. Councilman Hass concluded that the building owner owns the 3 to 5-foot area around the building and that area would be the building owner's responsibility as confirmed by President Goodman.

Councilman Ross questioned why the space could not be leveled off covered in asphalt at a lesser cost. President Goodman replied that, unfortunately, there are laws and environmental practices that have to be adhered to that would make that idea implausible. The City is required to address all of the environmental factors that come with development. The engineers had to go through a number of federal agencies to get the plan approved. Councilman Ross questioned if the members would be holding another workshop on the project. President Goodman concluded they would not.

Vice President Wininger advised that she held a town hall that had approximately 20 people in attendance. She added that she was planning on sitting outside of City Hall as people are coming in and out as a 'meet your Council' activity. She expressed her appreciation for everyone's input, attendance and effort. She requested to clarify the concept of the 10-minute discussion item. President Goodman recalled that the members decided that they, as a Council, would like to come up with ways to improve communication. If one suggestion is to ask the board members to come once a month, then that is something the Council can implement. If a member has an idea toward that end, that member can direct it be placed on the agenda and determine that is what the Council expects from the committees.

CITY OF WILLISTON, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

8

March 7, 2017

Mayor Hethcoat stated he was approached earlier in the day about a clean-up day. The proposed date is on a Saturday at 2 pm because a lot of the people that would like to be involved will be occupied with WYAA that morning and they want to participate in it afterwards.

City Manager Lippmann advised that FDOT is holding two public meetings soliciting public comment for their master plan for the I-75 Relief Project on March 14th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Hilton in Ocala and April 11th in Gainesville at UF Hilton from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. They are going to be conducting improvements in the I-75 corridor. The HWY 41 proposal has been set aside for the moment. He stated that the Williston Police Department will be swearing in a new police officer at 3:00 pm on March 8th. Officer Dennis Rich Peters comes to Williston with 14 years of law enforcement experience. He noted that the Rural Economic Development Initiative workgroup will be held in the Joyce Bullock Elementary School Library on Friday, March 17th between 10 am and Noon. Staff intends to give them green carnations since it is St. Patrick's Day to identify them and will encourage citizens to come and ask questions and tell them about Williston. The City will give them the unvarnished truth about Williston because they are very interested in seeing Williston change for the better. They are investing some time and their agencies will be investing money in various aspects of this process. He stated that there are some people who are interested in developing businesses and improving businesses that are already present and expanding their footprint in Williston.

City Attorney Koberlein stated his concern about board email addresses. He noted that he would look into that issue before the next meeting. He noted that staff will have a recommendation that, for the safety of the board members, the Council require them to complete some type of education. He explained that the Florida Institutes of Government/FSU has a 4 hour online course available for \$35.

City Clerk Taylor stated the staff is looking into a similar course via the First Amendment Foundation. Dates are pending.

ITEM – 9 – ADJOURNMENT

President Goodman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

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Charles Goodman, City Council President

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Frances V. Taylor, City Clerk

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