

**WILLIAMSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

May 2, 2024

5:30 P.M.

***The meeting was not videotaped.**

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher; John Coleman; Kim Crupper; Jayson Payne; Bob Perry; Gina Smith; Frank Wichmann; Alex Cummins; and Vivian Link

ALSO PRESENT: Rick Willoby; Dave Henson; Kristie Willoby; Zackary Courtney; Ronnie Maines; Paul Oghia; Matt Combs; R. Daniel Burton; Grace Schappacher; Nathaniel Marshall; Elizabeth Workman; Stephen Gales Jr.; Johnny Philippo; Debby Lucas Angel; Dakota Combs; John Howe; and R. Darlene West

Mayor Christopher called the Meeting to order.

Mayor Christopher welcomed all in attendance and requested all to sign in.

INVOCATION: Jayson Payne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, beginning at 6 p.m.

Reading of Richard D. Willoby's letter dated April 26, 2024, resigning from City Council

At this time, Mayor Christopher read Mr. Willoby's letter dated April 26, 2024, resigning from City Council. It was stated that Council received the letter from Mayor on May 1, 2024.

City Council consideration/approval of Mayors' appointment of Richard D. Willoby as Williamstown Fire Chief

Mayor Christopher welcomed the members of the Williamstown Fire Department and Richard D. Willoby. He further stated that former Chief Les Whalen officially submitted his letter of retirement last month. Mayor has appointed Richard D. Willoby, and it will be up to Council, to approve the appointment. Mayor stated at this time he would now allow the Fire Department members to speak, with City Council members to follow.

Assistant Fire Chief, Patrick Whalen, read a letter he had written. He stated he feels a hiring board is needed to appoint the next Fire Chief and the appointment was done without proper posting of the available position.

Johnny Philipppo stated he is a 17 year veteran with Williamstown Fire Department. Former Chief Whalen recommended Nathaniel Marshall. The Mayor stated he received Chief Whalen’s recommendation but had not received the recommendation letter from the Fire Board. Mr. Philipppo stated Fire Chief Interim, Richard Willoby, does not concern him personally. He is asking to keep Mr. Willoby as interim, until formal placement can be done. Mayor Christopher stated that Mr. Marshall is a great asset to the Fire Department, but he made a judgement call to appoint someone who has ability. Discussion occurred about no communication between the Mayor and the Fire Department.

Kim Crupper asked if Council will be voting as interim or full-time Chief. Mayor Christopher stated it would be interim until approved by City Council. Discussion continued about the approval of interim or full-time. City Attorney, Frank Wichmann stated no decision has to be made tonight. John Coleman questioned Mr. Willoby’s commitment to Fire Chief since the appointment to City Council did not last. Mr. Willoby stated his goal was to get appointed to City Council. He further stated he did not know the Fire Chief position would become available so quickly. He further stated he feels qualified to support the Fire Department and is 100% committed to the position.

Discussion continued about how training has changed and the Fire Department members want to make sure the new Chief is the best candidate. Discussion continued about tabling item 6 and how the Fire Department members would like to be included in the hiring of the full-time Fire Chief.

Gina Smith made the motion to table City Council consideration/approval of Mayor’s appointment of Richard D. Willoby as Williamstown Fire Chief as interim chief until open applications and a hiring Board is established by 8/1/24. John Coleman seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	yes	Kim Crupper	yes
Jayson Payne	yes	Bob Perry	yes
Gina Smith	yes		

All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion of 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Christopher and City Council were presented spreadsheets for each Department listing anticipated revenues and expenses. Each Department was reviewed and discussed.

Motion to Enter into Closed Session pursuant to the authority of KRS 61.810(1)(f): discussion of the replacement of City Council Member Richard D. Willoby

Bob Perry made the motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to the authority of KRS 61.810(1)(f): discussion of the replacement of City Council Member Richard D. Willoby. Gina Smith seconded the motion, and the vote was follows:

John Coleman	no	Kim Crupper	yes
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Jayson Payne	yes	Bob Perry	yes
Gina Smith	yes		

Majority voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to Exit Closed Session

Gina Smith made the motion to exit Closed Session. Bob Perry seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	yes	Kim Crupper	yes
Jayson Payne	yes	Bob Perry	yes
Gina Smith	yes		

All voted in favor. Motion carried.

No votes were taken while in Closed Session.

*At this time John Coleman left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

City Council consideration/approval of City Council Candidate to replace City Council Member Richard D. Willoby

Bob Perry made the motion for approval of City Council Candidate to replace City Council Member Richard D. Willoby. Jayson Payne seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	absent	Kim Crupper	yes
Jayson Payne	yes	Bob Perry	yes
Gina Smith	yes		

All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to nominate Dave Henson as City Council Candidate to replace City Council Member Richard D. Willoby

Jayson Payne made the motion to nominate Dave Henson as City Council Candidate to replace City Council Member Richard D. Willoby. Bob Perry seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	absent	Kim Crupper	yes
Jayson Payne	yes	Bob Perry	yes
Gina Smith	yes		

All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to appoint Dave Henson as City Council Member

Jayson Payne made the motion to appoint Dave Henson as City Council Member. Bob Perry seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	absent	Kim Crupper	yes
Jayson Payne	yes	Bob Perry	yes
Gina Smith	yes		

All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Adjourn


Jayson Payne made the motion to adjourn. Gina Smith seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

John Coleman	absent	Kim Crupper	yes
Jayson Payne	yes	Bob Perry	yes
Gina Smith	yes		

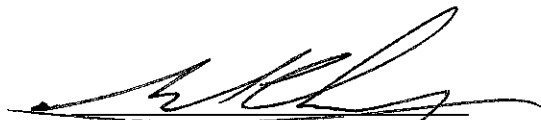
All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Signed:

DATE



Vivian Link
City Clerk/ Treasurer



Mark Christopher, Mayor
City of Williamstown, Kentucky

SPECIAL MEETING

WILLIAMSTOWN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

MAY 2, 2024

5:30 P.M.

1. Roll call
2. Meeting called to order
3. Invocation
4. Announcements:
 - The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, at 6 p.m.
5. Reading of Richard D. Willoby's letter dated April 26, 2024, resigning from City Council
6. City Council consideration/approval of Mayor's appointment of Richard D. Willoby as Williamstown Fire Chief
7. Discussion of 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Budget
8. Motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to the authority of KRS 61.810 (1)(f): discussion of the replacement of City Council Member Richard D. Willoby
9. Motion to come out of Closed Session
10. City Council consideration/approval of City Council Candidate to replace City Council Member Richard D. Willoby
11. Adjourn


MARK CHRISTOPHER, MAYOR

Notice of Special Council Meeting has been provided to the *Grant County News* and to all City of Williamstown Council Members Pursuant to KRS 61.823 (4)(a) and (4)(b) as well as being posted at Williamstown City Hall Pursuant to KRS 61.823 (4)(c).

