Willows City Council
Regular Meeting
Action Minutes

October 27, 2026
Willows City Hall
6:00 PM

201 North Lassen Street
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-7041

City Council
Evan Hutson, Mayor
Richard Thomas, Vice Mayor
Gary Hansen, Council Member
Lorri Pride, Council Member
John Lowe, Council Member

Interim City Manager
Joe Gorton

City Clerk
Karleen Price

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 PM**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

   Councilmembers Present: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, and Councilmember Lowe
   Councilmembers Absent: None
4. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT & CONSENT CALENDAR FORUM**

   Mayor Hutson pulled Item #5d for discussion

   a. **Register Approval**
   Action: Approved general checking, payroll, and direct deposit check registers.

   b. **Minutes Approval**
   Action: Approved the minutes of the October 13, 2026, City Council Meeting.

   c. **Declaration of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment and Authorization of Public Auction**
   Action: Declared the vehicles and equipment identified in Attachment 1 surplus and authorized their sale by sealed-bid auction and lawful disposal of remaining items.

   Motion to approve Items 5a, 5b, and 5c as presented.

   Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Hansen/Councilmember Pride
   Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
   No: None
   Absent: None
   5-0

   d. **Park Development Impact Fee Funding and City Engineer Task Order for SPP Round 5 Grant Application**

Public Comments
Public Comment #1: Michelle Knight

Motion to authorize the use of Park Development Impact Fee funds and authorize the City Manager to execute a task order with the City Engineer, Coastland/DCCM, in an amount not to exceed $50,000.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pride/Vice Mayor Thomas
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None
Absent: None
5-0

6. **DISCUSSION & ACTION CALENDAR**

a. **Rotary Club Request to Rename 20/30 Central Park**

Public Comments
Public Comment #1: David Vodden
Public Comment #2: Michelle Knight
Public Comment #3: Lavonne Hinton
Public Comment #4: David Vodden
Public Comment #5: David Vodden

Motion to deny the renaming of Central Park.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Hutson/Councilmember Pride
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Vice Mayor Thomas voluntarily abstained.
4-0

Staff was directed to work with the Rotary Club to develop signage recognizing the Rotary Club and 20/30 Club, to be submitted to Planning Commission for Design Review.

b. **Children's Library Patio Project and Funding Authority**

Motion to authorize Library Development Impact Fee funding in an amount not to exceed $96,000 for design and construction of the Library Children's Patio Expansion Project, and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary agreements.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Hansen/Vice Mayor Thomas
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None

Absent: None
5-0

c. **Establish Council Economic Development Committee**

The Council recessed at 7:36 PM and reconvened at 7:42 PM.

Public Comments
Public Comment #1: Michelle Knight

By consensus, the City Council tabled the item to a future meeting in January 2027.

d. **Review and Consideration of the Planning Commission and Library Board of Trustees Interview and Appointment Procedures**

Motion to maintain the current interview and appointment process utilizing a two-member City Council subcommittee, with no changes.

Moved/Seconded: Vice Mayor Thomas/Councilmember Hansen
Yes: Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: Mayor Hutson
Absent: None
4-1

Staff was directed to develop a standardized list of 30 interview questions for the Planning Commission and Library Board of Trustees.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

a. **City Council and Planning Commission Stipends**

Public Hearing Open: 8:20 PM, Closed 8:21 PM

Motion to adopt an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Willows amending sections 2.05.010 and 2.35.010 of the Willows Municipal Code regarding City Council and Planning Commission compensation, by title only, and waive full reading of the ordinance.

Moved/Seconded: Vice Mayor Thomas/Councilmember Hansen
Roll Call
Yes: Mayor Hutson, Vice Mayor Thomas, Councilmember Hansen, Councilmember Pride, Councilmember Lowe
No: None
Absent: None
5-0

8. **COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

a. **Council Correspondence**

Mayor Hutson reported that correspondence from Forrest Sprague was received by Interim City Manager Joe Gorton and forwarded to Councilmembers. The correspondence is available at City Hall for public inspection. Mayor Hutson also acknowledged correspondence received from David Vodden.

b. **City Council Comments & Reports**

Councilmembers reported on various meetings and community events attended.

Vice Mayor Thomas provided an update on the Finance and Measure I Committee (FMiOC) meeting and recommended that the Committee review the City's contracts with M&I and HdL.

Councilmember Pride provided an update regarding the Willows Municipal Code.

Future Agenda Items:

- Consideration of establishing a restricted reserve fund for the Willows Police Department.
- Review of the Finance and Measure I Committee.

c. **Interim City Manager's Report**

Interim City Manager Joe Gorton reported meeting with representatives from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Glenn County Public Works to discuss flood response preparedness related to potential El Niño conditions.

He also reported meeting with Glenn County Sheriff Gibbs and characterized the meeting as positive and productive.

9. **ADJOURNMENT – 8:45 PM**

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Karleen Price, City Clerk