

Thursday, July 20, 2017  
Williamsport, PA

Council President Jonathan Williamson brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. The Cooley Studio did not televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Joel Henderson and was immediately followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance".

**Council members present:**

Jonathan Williamson, President  
Randy Allison, Vice President  
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman  
N. Clifford Smith, Councilman  
Don Noviello, Councilman  
Elizabeth Miele, Councilwoman  
Joel Henderson, Councilman

**Absent:**

Don Noviello

**Also, Present:**

Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor

Rebecca Haladay

Mr. Joe Gerardi

Mr. William Nichols, Jr.

Mr. Joe Pawlak

Mr. Gary Knarr

Mr. Tom Cillo

Dave Young, Police Chief

Sol. J. David Smith

Janice Frank, City Clerk, absent

Todd Heckman, Fire Chief,

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of July 20, 2017 were approved upon a motion from **and Mr. Allison** a second from **Mr. Henderson**. All were in favor. **The vote was 6 to 0. Mr. Noviello was absent. Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Smith voted yes, Dr. Williamson voted yes. Mr. Noviello was absent.**

**Ordinance #6333 - Designating Andys Alley (Final Reading)**

The Acting City Clerk (Mr. Lubin) read the resolution. The Ordinance to Designating Andys Alley. Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adopt the resolution.

**Motion was made by Mr. Allison and seconded by Mrs. Katz.**

Dr. Williamson asked Mr. Cillo if there was anything you like to add over the last couple of weeks and he respond no nothing at all to add, no opposition, no feedback, what so ever in the last two weeks.

Dr. Williamson asked for any additional commits or questions. Mr. Henderson just to mention we talked about this in our neighborhood watching meeting just this past week and everybody is pretty excited in our neighborhood. It has been over all a very good community-building project for us and so I am glad that we can see this through to completion tonight. Dr. Williamson asked for any more commits or questions. He asked Mr. Lubin to do the roll call vote.

**The ordinance was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Smith voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes. Mr. Noviello was absent. Dr. Williamson stated that the ordinance was approved in final reading.**

**Resolution Real Estate Interest Exoneration**

Dr. Williamson stated that this resolution was removed from the agenda and on to the next one.

**Resolution to Approve the City of Williamsport 2017 James David Robinson Cultural Program Awards**

Dr. Williamson stated that he would be abstaining from this and turned the gavel over the Mr. Allison. Mr. Lubin stated the resolution to approve the City of Williamsport 2017 James David Robinson Cultural Program Awards.

Motion was made by Mr. Henderson and seconded by Mrs. Katz.

Mr. Allison said Mayor Campana. The Mayor stated that he was pinch hitting for Mr. Jesse Novinger tonight, Mr. Vice President and Dr. President and members of the City Council. Before you, I have a resolution in regards to the Cultural Grant Program in the past couple of years it has been named after Mr. Robinson. There were seven organizations that applied for this grant and the seven organizations are listed in your packets: Lycoming Arts, Repasz Band, Williamsport Symphony Orchestra, Community Theatre League, Bald Eagle Arts, Community Arts Center and Bill Town Blues. A very detail systems was used with the recreation commission to choice these groups and what is nice about it is all seven of these groups applied and no one else applied and I thought it was very appropriate that the \$3,000.00 was divide among the seven groups. Thank you. Mr. Allison thanked the mayor. Mr. Allison asked if this was reviewed by the Finance Committee, and Ms. Miele of the Finance Committee stated that is was forward to the council with a positive recommendation. They did make a handful of notes, obviously, the one organization that was funded with the largest amount the \$750.00 was Lycoming Arts, this is a new program of arts in the neighborhood program, and so we wanted to be certain. I think the margined of the discussion at finance was centered on being certain finance wanted to track the program and make certain that it did preform. It is a neat ability that the city has because we are a lot less incumbent when we distribute actual city funding to choice new organizations that has not been vented. Try to do some good in that way, and comes with the responsibility to make certain that those monies are well spent. That we are not from year to year not dispersing funding to an organization that is not using the funding wisely. With that observation, we as I said before us with the full body of the committee recommended to council with a positive recommendation. Thank you, Ms. Miele and any commits or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated us on the rec commission, and I am on the rec commission and we took some time with these and we were a little late on the draw we would have like to bring this sooner however we were low numbers for several of meetings. For two months we didn't have a forum, but we were finally able to put everything together and I think that we were successful in sorting through everything and looking

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through everything, and I am pleased at what we have here and I think it is good for use to be able to help out are community in this way. Even though it is a small amount I wish we could have do so much more, but I think this is a real blessing that is something that we can, we can do and so I am glad to be a part of this. I think that we were able to help everyone that came to us, and there was a way in which we graded the applications and then everybody on the commission graded them individually and then we brought it all together. Work with those decisions as individuals and this was the finally result and I think this was a good way to go about it, as the mayor refers at early. Thank you. Ms. Miele wanted to make one more point from the finance discussion that I neglected. We did discuss it and I think we should continue to explore two elements about this particular grant cycle in this grant in the next coming year. A) That it seems as though the grant would be more useful if we disperse it a little earlier in the year as we discuss with Jesse trying to move it up gradually. Because we cannot go right back out with another grant session cycle next February, which would be an ideal time, but try and move it up a couple of weeks or month every year until we get to that sweeter spot when we have the funding available for these programs in the summer which is when they are going to be needing it. B) Secondly, we discuss with some, especially with some input from Randy, who happen to serve on the school board when this was a much larger pool of money. Perhaps the city should look for some additional citizen partners to try to expand the amount of the funding a little bit \$3,000.00 is better than nothing funds but it is a substancially amount of paper work for both use and for the organizations that are applying. It would be nice to see use be able to more fully fund some of these projects and /or fund a larger numbers of projects in smaller quantities with the money. If we could pull a little support from elsewhere and that was everything. Mr. Allison asked for any more questions or anything and asked Mr. Lubin to poll.

**The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. Five were in favor. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Smith voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson abstained. Mr. Noviello was absent. The resolution passes.**

**Certificate of Appropriateness - HARB**

Dr. Williamson states that we have a variety of Certificate of Appropriateness for HARB at 1052-1054 Vine Avenue we are going to be doing some roofing work and gutter work. At 922 West Third Street, we are doing some paintwork, which includes the paint color Argos that is gray, nuance, which sounds pretty beige, lagoon, and iron ore and more or less, which is green water. At 522 (520) West Third Street, some residing.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to approve the certificates.

**Motion made by Ms. Miele and seconded by Mr. Allison.**

Dr. Williamson asked for any commits or questions. Hearing none Mr. Lubin

**The certificates were approved with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All in favor. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Smith voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes. Mr. Noviello was absent.**

Accept for Filing:

Finance Minutes 4/25/17  
Public Works 04/25/17

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to accept the minutes for filing.

**Motion was made by Mrs. Katz and seconded by Ms. Miele**

**The accept for filing was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0. All were in favor. Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Smith voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes.**

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 7:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chambers. (Enter through the police department at rear of building for meetings after 5:00 PM.)

~ Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, July 24	12:00 PM Planning Commission
	4:00 PM Recreation Commission
Tuesday, July 25	7:00 PM Citizen's Corp
Wednesday, July 26	11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority
Tuesday, August 1	12:00 PM Public Safety
	1:00 PM Public Works
	3:30 PM Finance Committee
Thursday, August 3	7:30 PM City Council Meeting

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Adjournment

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from members of Council.

Dr. Williamson asked if the Mayor or his Administration had any questions or commits. Mayor asked if the administration had to be in executive session or not.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the Administration.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the General Public.

Mr. Allison committed on seeing Mr. Tressler out there and spoke to him on Saturday at the cemetery, and it created a lot of activity and interest. Your interest in it and your history with that is very valuable and we appreciate. Now something is growing and of course, I read the paper today and saw the mayor and the county commissioner are working on a solution for some maintenance. So, I began to think about the whole issue because we all have grown up with that cemetery, and it seems like it is never been in outstanding shape, but it has gotten progressively worst over the years. There are many different moving parts, as far as taking care of it. I thought perhaps we should and as I say we I mean the city, the council and the administration and others develop a structure and plan to take care of the particular piece of ground. You know maybe bring in the different parties, the city, the county of course, the public that is interested but the group that oversees and the trust fund are doing the best they can. It is, as they do not have enough resources and other organizations that have been interested in that. Maybe I have one other thought maybe Mr. Nichols no it is a pop quiz, just kidding. I know you were saying when he is going to be done so we could get out of here early. It is just that when I was thinking about the piece of property. I was thinking it is actually in the footprint of the East Third Street Gateway Historically District and it is a historical property. That I assume we could include into the plans and I think it can be a real asset and I see the ground itself needs to be tended and taken care of in a good way. However, the headstones, if we had somebody that was skilled in that, if we could get the funds or grant to restore some of that stuff or and to make it a real showpiece for the city. Because the paper today the founder of the City and the founder of Lycoming College are buried in there and those are not insufficient people. I am sure that the college would be interest in I thought of Dr. Piper, he gave use such a great presentation on the history of East Third Street and all the development there and I am sure he would be the just as valuable giving us some information on things like that mayor. The mayor said he appreciate him for bring that up, and he believes that periodically the city should be a part of this and periodically we have set on or two streets and parks employees into assist. Now as I have said all along that we have enough work for Streets and Parks, so it is not our property for use to maintain full time. We have been in communication with the Lycoming College just to let you know and council I welcome that participation for use to work together on this, it should be a showpiece, and it is infusing and if you take a look at the history like I said back in the 1920s they had the same issue. The prior Williamsport cemetery was located at the former City Hall. We had of course Mark Twin written a poem about that and so it has been an issue for many decades. However, I believe it is our responsibility the administration, the city council, to put a plan in place so when we leave office this plan is still in place and its working. One of the major issues I believe is what the board is not solvent, so I believe in working with them adding additional individuals to that board, because many of the individuals have past or their not very active because they are elder. So, I think that if we can, maybe, assist the board in regards to making it a more active board they have not sold get this, they have not sold a cemetery plot, the last time they did that was in 1936. The last person was buried there was in 2004, so, there not a very active cemetery group. I am not advocating that the City goes into the cemetery business, but I believe with are expertise and with are knowledge I believe it is our responsibility to assist them. We have been having some action, we had meetings a couple of weeks age before the grass was cut. To begin the discussion, of helping this group, we are going to continue to do that and I would welcome City Council participation. Thank you. Dr. Williamson thanks to everybody that was involved in that and if we put our heads together, we will be able to get that in shape with a long-term sustainable plan. Other commits or questions from the public Dr. Williamson asked.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Meeting adjourned** upon motion by **Mr. Henderson** and **seconded by Ms. Miele**.

Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 7:52 PM** "ayes".

**Submitted by:**

**Stacy L. Sweeting**

**Temp City Clerk**