

**Thursday, December 6, 2018
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Jonathan Williamson brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did 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
Derek Slaughter, Councilman
Don Noviello, Councilman
Elizabeth Miele, Councilwoman
Joel Henderson, Councilman*

Absent:

Also, Present:

*Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor
Mr. Joe Gerardi
Mr. William Nichols, Jr.
Mr. Gary Knarr absent
Jody Miller, Asst. Police Chief
Sol. Austin White
Janice Frank, City Clerk,
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief
Adam Winder
Nicholas Grimes, Treasurer*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of November 20, 2018 was approved upon a motion from **and Mr. Slaughter made** a second from **Mr. Henderson. All were in favor. The vote was 6 to 0. Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes. Ms. Miele had not yet arrived.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

Frank Steckel, 619 First Ave. Williamsport, Pa

He stated he is a Democratic Committee Member for the 12th Ward, he stated he heard from the city clerk that he should keep his comments about the budget, he asked if that was true. Dr. Williamson answered yes. He stated he wanted to bring out a couple of things, the last time I talked was about the severance tax. I don't understand why the city is a legislative body represent the city rather than the Republican Party I think, since it is five to two and go after Senator Yaw and Garth Everett, who we know took over after Brett Feist. From what I understand, there was an interest in gas companies, but what I would like to know is why you haven't approached Dr. Williamson, Mr. Henderson or any of the rest. Dr. Williamson went on about the last time I was here, we were talking about approaching that, maybe I am wrong, maybe you did approach that, maybe I am missing that. That's number one, number two is I want to bring up something about the Police Dept., which I read in the paper they are cutting back, and they have problems with this and that. From what I understand in the last 4 or 5 times, I have asked the Police to be involved in this, but they take a broom and sweep it under the carpet, maybe they don't like me. I get the impressions when I deal with a lot of people. Public Officials, someone lies to the Police and it is caught on video, and then we don't do anything about it. That's just the way it is, I guess you save a lot of money. I don't know if they're going to continue save money. You pretty much have to point to the officers in charge, and currently we are about ready to send Jody Miller to the post of chief and he was strictly involved in one of these situations were an actual department head of the probation office in the county courthouse during business hours threatened me and acted in a most childish manner, there were about six or 7, or 8 witnesses, and he went over there and interviewed one witness. So he didn't do a very good interview. And if somebody looks and says that's the process, you are in one party and absolute power does create corruption. So this guy walks. And it's been here for like that the same way, I have been here at Council to have the current chief of police investigate and he sent Jody off to do it, and he did less than a good job, and now you want to make him cheap. The public doesn't hear about this, as a Sun Gazette doesn't print this stuff. I guess you're not even allowed to answer me, you just sit there like dopes, I don't know, maybe the solicitor decided that you shouldn't say anything in public. I think it is disgusting. You get paid too much, you don't represent the people because when somebody comes here with the complaint nobody answered you. I guess I should fill out a Freedom of information act so somebody can comment. So that is basically it, you should be ashamed of yourselves for not approaching it. If you haven't you are a derelict and in your duties. If I don't get resort from something from the city of Williamsport, I guarantee you the state and federal government will be involved. When it comes to a budget proposal, replacing your chief midterm might be more expensive than doing ahead of time. Don't thank me for my comments, a hollow thanks is not important.

Scott Miller, 822 Tucker St. Williamsport, PA Dr. Williamson I see you have a doctorate in political science so maybe this will be better addressed to you, and I believe Don Noviello also teaches political science us. I was always told that the Constitution is a contract between the government and those governed. It transcends all the way down to us. What the Constitution says to provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare. You all are talking about cutting the police, and my daughter started in kindergarten 12 years ago I wrote to City Council and the mayor about it being unsafe to cross the street. 12 years later, on numerous occasions I videotape vehicles passing stop school buses with the postures and I provided that video voted to the police department. You all will cut the police but you don't care about the safety and welfare of children. That is disgusting to me. That is simply disgusting to me. We have and opioid crisis, but we are going to cut the police. You are going to cut streets and parks, I have potholes, that haven't been filled this year, I brought photographs to city Council, how are you providing me the goods and services I paid for. I was a contractor for years, this is breach of contracts and nonperformance. So before you raise more taxes, I want to goods and services that I have already paid for. If I went to your house you're only paying half of it for cash the whole check, how would you feel. So your cutting codes, there's a lot of stuff from codes that I see all the time, I see Joe regularly. I don't want to cut that. Are you all going to fix the dike this year, are you going to the MS for mandate? I kind of joked, why don't you go to 30 mils, to clear everything in declare bankruptcy. I don't see the city acting in my benefit, it is in direct conflict for city government, and don't see you all working on it. You will work for me, I don't work for you before you raise taxes and cut everything, remember if my child gets hurt, I hold each and every one of you

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

all personally responsible. If any child gets hurt, I will hold you all responsible. You probably have your own I'm sorry speeches all written up for when somebody gets hurt. But prove to me that you care.

Bill#1717-18

An Ordinance of the City of Williamsport, County of Lycoming & Commonwealth of PA fixing the Tax Rate for All City Purposes for the Year 2019 (first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adopt this ordinance in first reading.

Mrs. Katz made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Slaughter.

Dr. Williamson stated before I turn this over to Mr. Nichols let me comment on the change in procedure this year. People who have followed this process in the past note that often in our first reading we deal with the expenditure side, or the general fund budget, of the city in which we figure out what the costs are of the city, to run the government over the next year, and then we fixed the tax rate afterwards. Using my discretion as president, I thought that maybe we would change that order this year and see how it reframed our discussion of the issues by starting with the question of what is it that we can afford, and figure out how to live within those means. We will see how it goes this evening, if we need to revise the order of the two items and second readings and we will do it. But I think we will go and see how it goes this way.

Mr. Nichols stated this ordinance is on first reading and it adopts the tax rate for 2019 at 15.37 mils this translates to \$15.37 per 1000 taxable real estate in the City of Williamsport. As indicated in the budget, this tax rate expects to generate \$13,378,122 which is for the anticipated LERTA abatements and for collection of 92%. The number that I just presented is different from the line item in your budget, and that's where we added the 2% of economic consideration of growth in the tax base. This ordinance relates to Mayor Campana's budget proposal which incorporates many of the recommendations provided in the financial plan and as presented will ensure the continued viability of the city, of controlling costs and increasing revenue and most importantly providing services to the city of Williamsport. Mayor Campana had to make a lot of difficult decisions so he wouldn't have any more of a tax increase and develop a strategy to ensure that the city maintains a strong financial position in light of the challenges in finding new opportunities for additional revenues. So with that said the administration is asking for your approval on the first reading.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions on the tax rate.

Mr. Henderson stated this is obviously a different way to do this as you have mentioned earlier. The question you reference was what can we afford? I don't know if we can answer that question, I'm not sure if we can afford what we have here, but what are we willing to do? Maybe that's the better question. I know that what we have in the proposed budget seems to me a bit inflated as far as the income estimates and how will that affect this tax rate. It's hard to have that conversation quickly.

Dr. Williamson stated it is and I admit we may not be able to. But I wanted to see how far we could get in this discussion. So to contribute some thoughts, we go back into information that was generated for the financial plan, that over the course of 2011, the millage rate of the city has gone from 10.18 mils to the current one which is 14.72 mils in the mayor's proposed budget would take us .65 mils higher than the 14.72 so that it will be 15.37. All members of council have struggled with the proposed budget on the expenditure and the revenue side, and as in every year we have particular planes as we will discuss and debate, and some will pass and some will fail. But the end we will end up with a budget, and the most difficult budget, we know it is destined to be that. The question is, can we live within, what means can we live within? Can we live within the current tax rate of 14.72 while still providing reasonable level of services that are expected? Do we need to increase it to 15.7 which is the mayor's proposed increase, is there some number in between there's that is between that number? Or is there some number higher that would allow us to sustain what we have? So what are the means that we can afford, and then one of the means do we believe we can live within in terms of providing as much as the services required that we must provide us the city to the citizens of Williamsport?

Mr. Allison stated and that really goes to the point of some of the public comments we heard here. There is an expectation that the services are going to meet a certain level and there's a desire to see that the taxes don't rise? It is a three year projection of things that we know, we could use this years ago but we haven't so now we are adding critical point now. So far the increased revenue from property taxes have covered the growth from expenditures, but we have reached a breaking point there. Our expenditures have been growing and we are about 3%, and everybody knows that salaries and benefits are 80% roughly of our budget. If you going to save money, that's where you going to save it. In our government.

Dr. Williamson stated by salary and benefits the mean salary, and pensions, we mean health insurance, FICA, Workmen's Comp., and over time and comp time. All of those things are incorporated in that 80% number.

Mr. Allison said the more dollars you spend the salary, intended things around it increases well. Are those expenses, projected to increase steadily over the next three years, 2019 to 26.4 million, 27.1 million in 2020, and 27.9 million in 2021. So estimating if we keep everything the same as far as personnel and salary and benefits, we are not going to be able to cover that increase, where our tax rate is now. We are doing a basic math problem, if this site goes up this much, and we can't raise this up any higher, because people don't want the taxes any higher, then the site is going to have to come down to meet that somehow. We have to find those savings, and they are significant dollars. If it was standard \$20,000, we can figure that out but were getting to, and we can't forget about the MMO which is close to \$4 million this year. It is a huge year. So we passed the ordinance with the millage rate in it and now are looking at all these details. As we heard, we heard the voice of a lot of the public, they don't want police cut, they don't want higher taxes. That is a tough one. I don't either, that is not something anybody wants to do, but it is something that in this budget to make it work. That's what where going to back into in figure out at this point.

Dr. Williamson stated salary and benefits the only way to bring it down is to cuts and individual positions for over a medium term of over several years of five or 10 years at a time is to find ways for negotiating restrictions or benefits. So 80% of your salary on benefits, that means having additional people.

Mr. Henderson stated the difficult tasks we had is the option of raising taxes, because in a typical house they don't have that option, they don't go to the employer and say look I can't afford to live this way without you raising my salary, at work, cause I can't afford to pay my bills. For us it is not an option, not to raise taxes, and that's we want more potholes and less officers. Are taxpayers willing to go that far and make some cuts? That is not what I am hearing, so we have to raise taxes. I'm not sure that this particular race in taxes is enough, I'm not sure .65 is going to do it so unless somebody has some ideas as to making

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

some major cuts in this proposed budget which already has some major cuts and I think the only option for us is to raise this amount.

Mr. Allison stated he just wanted to commend our Streets and Parks department because they have filled a lot of those pot hose and there's been a lot of streets paid over this year. So a lot of that has been fixed and I don't want to leave that hanging out there, the employees did a great job and so did the administration and getting that done.

Mr. Henderson stated by point in mentioning that was only to tie back from some of the comments that were already made.

Dr. Williamson stated I like to point out some more things that would shape our discussion, one the app salute affects or whatever we end up with, it is an absolute burden on our taxpayer. The other part we should miss is a relative impact, when your friend or neighbor writes a check which is 1/30 of the check you write for the same value house, it starts your thinking process. We were talking about financing of local government this semester, one of the students wrote about the concept of voting with their feet. The problem for the city is not if I get reelected or you get reelected, the problem for the city is if the people simply give up and move out. That does none of our problems any good and when the Bill is 30 times what our neighbor's Bill is. We have a lot of services that other communities don't have, and we have services that are city provides that other types of municipalities don't provide. But we go back to those numbers and we had numbers that are really tough, but they are services that they pay for. One of the things I reference is going back to our financial plan, trying to see what will happen in our plan in our current plan over the next year. So we have to look at changes in the millage rates over time, and we have to look at deficits at the end of the year. Unless you cut services or raise taxes appropriately you will not be able to just make it up. You will end up with the negative fund balance. And in this year, without a tax increase and without cuts, it is the effect that only compounds itself over the next three years. So the historic 3% growth which we can't control in expenditures, or a plan that does not include a way to grow some revenue and because of the restrictions we face by the state, the main way to grow revenue is to property taxes. So the only scenario in the entire budget, through the financial plan that results in staying in the black at the end of three years, requires both reducing our expenditures below historic growth averages and increasing. What it is going to require is Council and the mayor this year making tough choices, next you are making more tough choices, and next year making even more tough choices to get to that number. So people are going to have to engage consistently over the course of each year, not just one time during the year but throughout the year on the discussion as a community. Not just within government, but our whole community, what means can we afford and live within. What terms are we willing to accept that we can rely on with our city government.

Mrs. Katz stated she thinks the public should be aware of what is really going on in City Hall, everybody that works in City Hall works, and puts their heart and soul into their jobs, and we hear constantly how they tried to do things to save money. How they come up with stuff to make better repairs, how the police department is coming up with how to save money as with time for the scheduling, which is been a big help tremendously. Mr. Nichols is going to such a extent to try and save money for River Valley. It boils down to one thing we aren't bringing enough money to cover all the expenses at this point. And his and businesses in less things change, we have to file for bankruptcy. Several people say, bring in new business to help defray costs, is a good thing to say that but you need a whole village to work on that to bring other businesses in. Every single city in the country is trying to bring in new businesses to their city. People are leaving our city because our taxes are so high, but we have more to offer here, our departments in our city take such pride in what they do, and we all have to start taking pride's so people can afford to live in our city. We have to come up with better ideas as far as bringing major differences to this area.

Mr. Noviello stated even if all seven of us talk political science it would not change the numbers. The numbers dictate to us we don't dictate to the numbers. Those figures before were not determined by our current administration our councils, the councils in the past that did not have the forward-looking, like were trying to do at the present as a three year look as the future. If they had done that would be in less then a situation that we are. We can do very little or nothing, and we have to look in our higher level of pension reform and we don't get much response from them, I don't know whether it's a fault, but it is a circumstance and not an excuse, it is simply a reason. We are fighting things that have little resolution to them. We should also recognize that in this room everyone will be paying those taxes as well. We spend time on public works to make sure the street cuts are cut in time and on fashion, so we have saved money on those as well. We did as much as we could do with the numbers here. Most cities are looking for people to come into town, I think we have to look for an outreach program so we can market ourselves more than we are.

Mr. Slaughter stated, I can do math, we all can do math and in looking at this budget, it is not ready to move forward, it is kind of foreign. We have had to work sessions, I think we should have had many more work sessions. In the two work sessions that we did have we've had many discrepancies, lack of answers from the administration on various line items, the numbers just don't add up and I can't support the tax increase at this time when the numbers just simply don't add up with what we are looking at.

Mr. Allison stated when Mrs. Katz and Mr. Noviello talked about services,, we are the center of the county for the services and none of those are taxable's and it's for good reason that they can provide them but they are used by them by the whole county, it is just another service that we provide, having a lot of nontaxable land, and we don't provide, is just another thing to make things more difficult.

Dr. Williamson stated he would want to make a suggestion, either we can for vote on a proposed ordinance as it stands or I will entertain a motion to change the ordinance or I would entertain a motion to table, and once we are done with reviewing the budget we can take it off the table.

Ms. Miele stated she was to agree with Derek, we are not ready and haven't had enough time.

Ms. Miele made a motion to table the tax budget. Mr. Henderson seconded.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote to table the ordinance.

The ordinance was tabled with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes. TABLED

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Bill #1718-18

An Ordinance Adopting Various Operating Budgets for the City of Williamsport, including the General Fund, Utility Fund, WBT Capital Projects, Capital Projects Fund, Liquid Fuels, City Hall, WBT Planning, Unemployment Compensation, Debt Service, Trade & Transit Center, Act 13, & Pool Repairs Capital Funds.(first reading)

The City Clerk read the ordinance in first reading.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adopt this ordinance in first reading.

Ms. Miele made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Katz.

Mr. Nichols stated as you know each budget was reviewed by line item for two sessions last week, that said this administration asked for your approval on first reading.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions on the first reading.

Dr. Williamson said he wanted to start on page 4, under real estate current we have based on the mayor's proposed tax rate the standard calculations that we have in the back of the budget on the page projected revenues, real estate current, we have a standard formula that we use based on the market value, assessed value by the county, and the collection rate, as a result of the calculation that was made, the number was inserted on page 4 as the number that we estimate for the coming year for the proposed tax rate. The number we see on page , the 2019 proposed real estate current is about \$267,562 higher than what we see in the back of the book. I understand the hope is through various efforts, that we hope to see revenue figures grow in the coming year over past years, the things that been historically true, and it is in those areas where property tax is stickier because they are based on relatively fixed values unless we have a reassessment. And they are not elastic in the way that business privilege taxes are, we would find ourselves short if we spend money that's not going to be there and we are taking a risk that we should not take. **Dr. Williamson made a motion to reduce the figure by \$267,562 on line 4110. Ms. Miele seconded it.**

Ms. Miele stated this year's budget as an ending fund balance of \$107,000. When I say that that is very little money and that's the reason why I second your motion, and if we have an inflated real estate return in her budget which projects we have more coming in and we have an average of reason to expect to come into the city, then we could very well be running on a budget only running on hundred \$7000, and we can run with the negative balance. We have to make sure our fund balance is positive rather than negative. Mr. Henderson stated just to reiterate and point out again, should this amended passes, that negative balance is not a result of spending anything at all. It's just because of an assumption were making. One of the things we have struggled with this unfunded pensions because we have made estimations in a different way and a different issue. He thinks is unwise to make that gamble we could remain with that 2% growth assumption if we would ahead and ending balance of 50%. So we can't afford to gamble.

Mr. Allison asked what our collection rate was this year.

Mr. Grimes stated we are currently at 92 or 93%, and then it does go up to 98%. Mr. Allison wanted to know what the improved economy in general what the rate improved.

Mr. Grimes stated the last few years have been historically higher but only by half a percent. The majority of real estate taxes are collected anyways and it would really only shift the burden if the current year goes up. It doesn't change the overall gain in taxes, it just changes which year it comes in. we have one new LERTA and we have approved a new LERTA program on new real estate development. Discussion about

Mr. Slaughter stated agrees with Mr. Henderson, you can't inflate the numbers when it's not showing, so inflated estimates coupled with the inaccurate line items, we can't grasp what the numbers currently are. I agree these estimates have to come down, we need to get year to date totals an updated line items, it is a budget that with the way we are looking at a rate now, I just can't see how we make any of these decisions without additional work budget sessions. These estimates are not based off the current accurate numbers. I agree fully that these estimations should come down and decrease, but we need to review the numbers and get the accurate figures prior to moving forward. I am not trying to repeat over and over the same information but it's just difficult to support and advance a budget with such gross inaccuracies that need to be addressed.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were other comments or questions on the motion to change the real estate line item.

Ms. Miele stated we only collect as many taxes as bills that we send out. If the total value of our proposed villages in the city's real estate is that if we get it this year them are simply not going to get it next year. We can only then see less income next year on both lines and have a tighter budget next year.

Dr. Williamson stated to summarize everybody's concern on this, it is about risk, conservative approach, and having the careful approach, if we are wrong by overestimating what we are receiving, we have bigger problems, if we underestimate what we received extra revenue that we did not anticipated goes to the bottom line in the following year's budget process becomes slightly easier.

Mr. Noviello asked so we can still continue our discussions, right?

Dr. Williamson stated all this does is change one line and once we are done, we have the ability to do normal things with anything we have, we can approve it or reject it or even table things. This particular motion does nothing to preclude it.

Mr. Allison said there's no doubt that that number is inflated, but if we did collect a 93% this year, the point is brought up is we are in a situation where we need to save as much as possible to drop to the bottom line.

Mr. Slaughter's point is we are not going to have it did reckoning number, were making an estimate ourselves, there can be variations of the items as we go forward.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Dr. Williamson made another motion to reduce on page 5, line item 49110, surplus, he wanted to reduce that number by \$100,000. We have a tight fund balance, and his concern is they are a one time source of revenue, when they are sold that property is sold, if you spent that money in an operating budget next year you have to replace that to continue those same activities. This is not the careful approach.

Ms. Miele seconded it.

Ms. Miele stayed it put us under negotiation we already have counted on this motion.

Mr. Noviello, stated the property itself is an asset to the City.

Mr. Henderson stated it also commits us as council , and obviously we started these discussions but haven't finished the discussions. It is a major discussion, I'd like to see some income generated from the

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

property one way or another but we can't rely on that, if we were to follow through and sell that property, and of course all that changes from what we did a moment ago. This is too much pressure on us a week now.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Dr. Williamson stated our current fund balance now is negative and we have to make up that ground one way or the other.

Mr. Henderson stated on page 1, under the debt service DST, this came up in our work sessions earlier and there was a question about what this is exactly and I'm going to make a proposal that we zero out this 77,500, but he asked Mr. Nichols if he could explain what that number is.

Mr. Nichols answered that line item, two years ago, that line item was utilized for payment of the Spillman system in the police department. This year it was going to be proposed for next year that that would go towards debt service specifically towards the bond related to the downtown project. The counter to that amount is RVT obligated itself to pay that, would we would continue the \$75,000 in administrative support. In conversations with leadership of Council, they suggested to eliminate that line item and show it and RVT's debt service line item with a like amount. Then there's a question of RVT continuing with grants for administrative services because of the fund balance would be low, I did review our budget and we would like to continue that grants to the city. By doing that, \$7500 would be the bottom line, this is something review every now and then, what the relationship is between RVT in the city. I will provide you with a list of all the different partners we have. Because we keep adding local partners, were able to keep original partners. Some of them have contributed to the bus system several years ago. I'm glad we can continue to do that. When you look at the whole thing globally, I do provide to the leadership of Council just how do we incorporate in our budget, budget support and our personnel support in the City of Williamsport, we been able to working with Council over the years, and the administration who find ways to find support of about \$800,000 a year. Which is a mill of taxes that you don't have to have in place. He is reassigning some of this to our personnel. Back with Mary Wolfe's time she asked him to serve as Dir. of Finance and he is still doing it, and he is saving cost of the city. We also our budgeting for 2019, RVT is handling technical services, PennDOT services, we pay \$200,000 towards the Delta Development we are going to help the recreation, we are going to help the city website, a new procurement system, we are going to do project management services for the east Gateway project, and then we will also provide six projects, is \$20 million we give to the city and we are glad to do that. So I guess I'm trying to put a positive spin on negative comments, that was said gross inaccuracies, if you look at the budgets, I take pride in that and that every budget in the last past 15 years that I've been involved in have always met the goal and exceeded the expectations. I'm happy to continue to have about what that.

Mr. Henderson stated I think the city has a unique relationship with RVT, and there's a whole lot of benefits that the city receives as a result of that benefit. Sometimes because of that relationship, there is difficulty in reflecting accurately the funds. And I think that is what we have here. One of the questions if you don't mind, I'm looking at the five-year comparison that we have, and in 2016, what was called debt service, was budgeted at \$100,000, the actual was zero and then the very next year, it was \$77,500, and still under the debt service RNS. Were we still paying for the Spillman ?

Mr. Pawlak answered that was for the Spillman, that line of credit ended.

Mr. Henderson stated so in 2018, the 77,500 was for?

Mr. Nichols stated since we were picking up a lot of costs for the Third Street, project, it was very difficult

Mr. Henderson stated he has to say he didn't understand that difference, and it looks like the same thing all the way across, from what I understand that debt service should be paid for by RVT, which it is, and I understand the administrative comes into the city, that is helpful, but that is not accurate. When I look at the budget, it is not clear and I just want to make it clear, that is the purpose of it.

Mr. Nichols stated and I understand but I have a June 30 audit, and those dollars go towards non-transit project, and we have to make them happen and I have to make sure we maintain.

Mr. Henderson stated we also have to honor the commitments that we made, that the city would not be paying our debt service, and as it looks here, we are. So we need to change that. It just comes down to that. And however we work those numbers, let's make sure that everybody understands the reality. And if the city is paying that debt service than that needs to be changed as well.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to amend line item 79560 to zero. Mr. Noviello seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Mr. Nichols stated to make it clear were going to maintain the \$75,000 this year, the administrative grant so to speak for 2019

Mr. Henderson stated and the city appreciates that, but let's just make it accurate as far as what people can understand and see.

Mr. Nichols stated we will make an adjustment in the Planning budget.

Mr. Henderson stated so will turn to page 7 in the RVT budget, **Mr. Henderson made a motion online 79560 purposed the \$77,500 move from the City line. Mr. Slaughter made the second.**

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Mr. Henderson stated then to pay for that, **I make a motion to reduce line 79170 reduce that from 250,000 to 172,500 in order to pay for that amount. Ms. Miele seconded it.**

Mr. Nichols stated he indicated to Councilman Henderson, he is going to have to come back with the transfer on how he's going to replace those funds because we want to keep those services throughout the entire year. I suggested I would come back with the transfer so we can maintain a contractual relationship. Mr. Henderson stated obviously we will look forward to them and make those adjustments.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Ms. Miele stated on page 42 on General Fund, she wants to make certain if we have to move numbers around here because of that 77,500 or was that simply a direct transfer so we don't need to address it. It appeared to be when we look back to 2018's budget when we decreased the Spillman, we increase the line item that in our debt service budget. That is to say it is budgeted,

Ms. Miele stated the proceeds from the borrowing it shows \$250,000 as a grant that we would receive from Bowman Field, and then we see down in the transfers is the transfers to capital projects that we will see on the capital projects budget. The city is caring a reasonable of debt for city our size, and we see that we are proposing to expand \$850,000 on paying principal and interest on the existing debt that we have. I do not feel it is in the best interest of the constituent of Williamsport to pay debt service on that. I don't want my kids to be paying debt service on things in the city when I was a councilperson. I am willing to propose a relatively lengthy solution for the Bowman Field.

Ms. Miele made a motion to zero out \$250,000, on page 42 44921. Mr. Allison seconded it.

She stated if the city proposes to match a grant from the State, I think that is a discussion you need to have, but instead of taking out borrowing and paying down debt, to commit to budgeting \$50,000 for the next five years to match that grant. And I do apologize to you Mr. Nichols, knowing that the city will be budgeting 50,000 for the next five years which will mean that we will have work to find someone to find the \$50,000,. That will avoid us incurring the debt related to Bowman Field.

Mr. Henderson stated he knew that two years ago we made improvements and we borrowed money to make improvements and at the time we were going to be paying debt service on the order of 10 years, that's all changed now with redoing our debt last year. So we are already paying for the next eight years, so I would agree I don't think it's wise to add more years of debt for Bowman Field projects. It is tough. It is a tough thing but at some point we have to realize we just don't have it and we shouldn't commit our children to pay for it. We are not giving them the choice, were saying too bad, you are paying, but it would be good for them to have that choice, if the grant is time sensitive, then there something we have to do. I would agree, I don't want to borrow anymore for Bowman Field. It is difficult to do that, especially considering the situation we find ourselves in as the city as a whole.

Dr. Williamson stated we have gone through various borrowing mechanisms over his time on Council and some of which were harder struggles and some were easier struggles. Sometimes it does make sense to go into debt if you can afford it is you are making a long-term investment in the investment it is worth wild and the benefits of the payments extend to the length of time in which we are paying them off so this year when we had the opportunity to close out some of this, \$600,000 gets is everything we have needed to update this facility. Of course it always takes up and we in need something to be updated. Then I heard Mr. Nichols last week and say he took it down to \$250,000 and if we were here talking about \$600,000, it's a lot bigger borrowing and getting it down to \$260,000. He has made progress already. But I also agree with Mr. Henderson's sentiment in the sediments behind the current motion. We have a reasonable debt but growing that debt will pushes beyond what is reasonable to something that may not be sustainable. So he thinks that is doable and Mr. Nichols's nodded his head.

Ms. Miele states it also eliminates the interest-bearing part of that.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele stated on page 42, on line 78240, transfer to capital projects, back to \$950,000. Mr. Henderson seconded.

We are transferring into the capital Project better \$500,000 into the levy and \$400,000 to work on City Hall.

Mr. Allison wanted people to be aware that we are not ignoring the levy, that we are aware.

Dr. Williamson asked the administration if they could put together a spreadsheet that would show essentially the project spreadsheet for the levees that is equivalent to what we see for the gateway etc. that helps to make sure that we capture everything that we spent so far.

Mrs. Katz stated that Mr. Nichols has already started a spreadsheet on the information on the levy. We've already address the issue.

Mr. Noviello suggested it will help clarify some of the questions that he is being asked as well.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the motion to amend.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion to amend line 49211 transfer from debt service from 1.2 to \$950,000. Mr. Henderson seconded.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion to amend.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele stated she had proposed a \$50,000 from the general fund budget and we need to put \$200,000 in another line or reduced the expenditure.

Dr. Williamson suggested we reduce capital budget investment expenditures.....Mr. Pawlak stated he is not sure how that will affect the Bowman Field project.

Ms. Miele made a motion to take from Act 13, reduce the Street resurfacing by \$50,000. Mr. Allison seconded it.

Seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions on the reduction of Street resurfacing.

Mr. Slaughter asked about input from Mr. Winder because of taking money out for Street resurfacing.

Dr. Williamson stated that is the way to go and we have made good progress this year, because we already have spent more money than normal as the city, and the utilities are now contributing more real dollars into real Street reconstruction and not just making future potholes. PennDOT also offered the gasoline tax and are spending more dollars. The first time we gain more ground than we have lost

Mr. Noviello stated we have done a lot for the streets on Public Works and utility companies stepping up to the plate sort of relieves is mine.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion under Act 13, she would insert a line and put \$50,000 in Bowman Field. Mr. Allison seconded the motion.

Mr. Henderson stated so to put forth 50,000 the first five years of payments to acquire the RCAP grant Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele stated she does not think the city should engage in any further borrowing for Bowman Field, and welcomes the discussion as to whether or not we can support taking the money out of the general fund over the next five years, but the solution she is proposing is not necessarily saying were going to propose taking money out for Bowman Field. This is the only path forward that she is comfortable with. Mr. Allison stated that he did vote for that change, but he will be interested to hear what Mr. Winder might feel.

Ms. Miele made a motion to create a line under Act 13. Mr. Henderson seconded.

Dr. Williamson said instead of funding Bowman Field with \$250,000 we have now allocated the act \$13 to pay for Bowman now need to show as a projected revenue.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion transfer from other sources to transfer from 49214, and add 4th line that says Bowman Field undetermined in the amount of \$200,000. Mr. Allison seconded it.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Mr. Henderson thanks Mr. Cooley for the five-year budget plan, it's been a great help. According to the five-year budget plan, the equipment line item is 28,000 on the plan, and he is asking if we can reduce it .

Mr. Pawlak answered no, because in the previous year he is seeking carryover. And it might leave him with the deficit. Some years will be over and some will be under.

Mr. Cooley stated we should plan around \$35,000.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to reduce line item 64010 from \$40,000 to \$35,000. Mr. Noviello seconded it.

Ms. Miele stated it was not City Council's intention to nickel and dime things on a Thursday night, so it is a long process and an unpleasant one and it involves a lot of sticky questions.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Mr. Henderson stated this is difficult but we have to look at every dollar so we can find as much as we possibly can. Right now at advertising, we are budgeted at 3500 can we reduce that by 1500?

Mr. Pawlak answered he thinks the HR office would be fine with that number, it would probably be smart to try to keep some of that in there.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to reduce line 73010 from \$3,500 to \$1,500. Ms. Miele seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were other comments or questions.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion to reduce line item on page 19 in the Recreation Advertising, from \$5,000 to \$2,500. Mr. Henderson seconded.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion to reduce general office supplies by \$10,000. Mr. Allison seconded it.

Ms. Miele stated that every department should be able to cut their office supplies. This will be distributed at the discretion of the administration

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

There was a discussion how we can find some ways to save and maybe go paperless soon.

Mr. Noviello made a motion to reduce line item 79140 by \$2,000...Mr. Allison seconded it.

Mr. Gerardi stated that we cannot reduce this line item because the board of health needs to pay for a health officer. It is a mandatory \$3000.

Mr. Noviello withdrew his motion, Mr. Allison withdrew his motion.

Dr. Williamson made a motion to reduce line item 70110 on the controller's page, auditing services by \$10,000. Mr. Henderson seconded.

Mrs. Katz asked why did it increase so much?

Mr. Pawlak stated it is from our auditors... There are not any income streams, voice inaudible.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele had questions on the Act 13 Funding and according to the budget we will be spending \$45,000 and Street resurfacing.

There was a discussion about \$100,000 that was set aside for the levee and we are also setting aside \$200,00 also and we should hear about July or August.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Dr. Williamson wanted to clarify what we have completed for the flood levy, we have completed and paid for the study phase and that's been fully funded on all the money we have allocated towards the study. When we have borrowed and set aside have \$1 million to serve as a match whatever needs to be set on remediation. We have funding in place for that. So basically we have \$700,000 and we have a million dollar RCAP allocation that has to have a complete match.

Dr. Williamson asked if the county has committed to a match?

Mr. Nichols answered no, but they will take on a share and we don't know what this year will be.

Ms. Miele stated we do have a sense that what we have will be sufficient to cover our share?

Mr. Nichols answered yes, I think we are okay.

Ms. Miele stated we are doing on-going costs with Wood and everything we have expended is a match.

Mr. Nichols stated the formula needs to be filled out and we will get that done. Within the next month or two if you want to reallocate something we can do that. Everything else will be picked up by the local partners.

Ms. Miele made a motion to reduce the Act 13 Fund budget by \$50,000. Mr. Allison seconded

Dr. Williamson stated the intention is to have that money available to fund the soft cost so they can move forward with the third Street project which would relieve pressure on the general fund.

Mr. Slaughter asked how would that impact us down the road?

Dr. Williamson stated according to what he heard from Mr. Nichols, he believes we will have the funding for phase 1 which will take us into the next 2 to 3 years of work on the levy remediation.

Mr. Nichols stated the SWIFT agreement is the first step we need to achieve. If you are reallocating \$50,000 for something that had to continue on that I don't think I could support that, if it is just a one time allocation, I think we can work with that. He felt that the county is going to be a major part of this, and with that part of the county I think we are safe doing that one time.

Dr. Williamson stated this is to help get some money to the general fund.

Mrs. Katz stated she is feeling a little bit uncomfortable taking money away from the levy without knowing the future, I just don't want to get stuck here without the funds to be able to proceed what we need to proceed. She stated that the levy is more important than the third Street project.

Mr. Nichols stated then in the new year will have to come back with an issue, and straighten things out then.

Mrs. Katz stated what we were so unsure of all the figures, and there are a lot of issues. We don't know what our costs are.

Mr. Nichols stated this is going to be a five year plan and he feels we are safe doing this.

Mr. Pawlak stated we decided to put money away, such as 100,000 this year, and we are trying to get another hundred thousand dollars put away.

Dr. Williamson stated we have all of our current commitments funded for the levy, he knows the cross pipes are three or \$4 million. In the back of our minds for the last two or three years ACT 13 funding has been going down, we all know that it's up right now. One of the things we can do each year is backfill, because six months from now we may end up getting more act 13 money, and then we can decide where the backfill is.

Mr. Nichols stated he does not think this is a funding issue for 2019, but a priority for 2020.

Mrs. Katz stated I just don't like doing things without having the money in our hands, and we do have a commitment for it.

Mr. Noviello stated he agrees with Mrs. Katz, and we have also been subject for recommendations that now have become requirements, and he felt it was really important that we keep a close eye on what's coming up in this process. We need to be ahead of that game as much as we can be.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion to create a line item related to engineering oversight, ACT 13 Budget, inserting it into a line. Mr. Henderson seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion to reduce line item 76060, contracted services from \$65,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Allison seconded it.

Dr. Williamson stated we have just moved the PennDOT mandated inspection service cost from the general fund to the act 13 fund.

Mr. Allison stated we started early on this several years ago soon as we found out about it when other communities ignored it, and they didn't get engaged, but we were the most involved in advance for our recent, we are the poster child for doing it right.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Dr. Williamson stated we need every nickel and dime so, he made the motion on line 78020 reduce expenditures by \$500. Mr. Slaughter seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on his motion.

Motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Dr. Williamson stated we have another very small number, a few years we increased the City Clerk's training budget, and it was not needed this year. **Dr. Williamson made the motion to reduce line 79530 by \$400. Ms. Miele seconded it.**

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the motion.

The Motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Dr. Williamson as Mr. Gerardi about the clean and seal item, and if he would be okay with us reducing that by some number.

Mr. Gerardi was comfortable with that number would only be able to get one or two of them done.

Dr. Williamson made a motion to reduce line item 79540 by \$2,500. Mr. Noviello seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on motion.

Motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Dr. Williamson stated he was struggling with this number because they do a lot for less, and we all prioritize things in the budget. None of us want to see a reduction in the police force, none of us want to see reduction in the budget, it is because we all value as members of this community the services that are city employees provide us. We've had conversations even as much as a year ago, and we still did make the cuts because the cuts are really painful. Because of growing pension costs, legacy cost, mandated cost, it is getting increasingly more difficult.

Dr. Williamson made a motion that we reduce streets and parks, personnel costs, to be decided later, line item 51010 by \$62,220. Ms. Miele seconded it.

Mr. Henderson stated it is hard to have a conversation about that, and this is not a real good form to do that, but I would like Mr. Winder to comment and offer something.

Mr. Winder stated that will actually take my head mechanic out of the garage, and that will also effect police, fire, and everyone else involved. A lot of the streets will not get done and is unfortunately, because the taxpayers will take a hit. We have already taken a cut, and a major cut, as you all know I let the building tonight because the street light was out. There's nobody else to call, I'm on call 24 hours. I have four weeks' vacation and I did not get to take them all this year.

Mrs. Katz stated that she has made the statement that our department heads all put their heart and soul into the city, and I can't justify this at all, I think this is asking too much and it is putting too much of a burden on it.

Mr. Slaughter stated he also has great concerns with this proposal and again going back to what he said in the beginning, if we went line by line through the streets and parks department, but the actuals were, what Mrs. Grado sent us, it was not even remotely close, maybe we could start from scratch. Either Mrs. Grado is way off, or our budget is way off. From what I have calculated with a few items, all the numbers are way off, and we might be cutting without even having to cut. It is not even close. The numbers are right here.

Mr. Pawlak asked when Mrs. Grado's number went through? They were asked for after the last work session, and I have not seen what you have received, but they will not be actual numbers. You are indicating that we are presenting in accurate numbers.

Mr. Slaughter stated, I guess what I am saying is that we should have actual numbers, for year to date. We should have your year to dates and we should have line item breakdowns because our numbers right now are not even close to what the actual real numbers are right now. I think we could have a great deal of savings, that are not reflected here. So were talking about cutting \$60,000 from the department, and I think we should have the actual year to dates available to us before we go through this budget process. We probably should've started this long ago, not probably, definitely should've started this long ago. The fact that we are talking about cutting, and we don't know what the actuals are, with the year to dates are, that is my concern. I am not saying what you have or what you may have in the future but we have to make those decisions right now. So what are we basing our decisions on at the current moment? We are basing our decisions on essentially nothing, we are basing our decisions off of nothing. We are just grasping at straws and guessing what we have been here, it's almost an exercise in futility to be quite honest with you. That's why work sessions are needed, and that is what a work session is. You go through this by line item, and you look at where you were and where you're headed. None of this has taken place., Coupled with all of the discrepancies that came out of Monday night, and then on Wednesday night we were supposed to revisit some of them. We have other figures that we don't even know what the figures are and we won't get them until the New Year's, we have non-revenue-generating funds that we spoke about, so we don't really currently know where we stand. But we want to cut, we want to do this, how can we do that? How can we do this when we don't know accurately where we stand? Maybe in the future, but at this moment for you to go cutting a department \$60,000, when I'm realizing it a couple line items, that we could have saved that money, it just doesn't make any sense to me. It really doesn't. So that's why tonight, I'm going to say at the very beginning of the night, going to say now, I will say it again tomorrow and I've been saying it for the last couple weeks, to look at these numbers I just can't make sense of it.

Mayor Campana stated Mr. Nichols has been here for 40 years and he's worked on budgets for many many years, and we have seen audits that have come back that have been very very positive, and they have said that our numbers are correct. This is a political issue right now. Because this Councilman says the numbers don't add up. He doesn't want to vote for the budget, he was additional budget sessions, that is fine with me, you can have one tomorrow night and for five days in a row and it is up to city Council. I am going to defend my department heads here because I personally think the comments made here are very very very insulting. Because my department heads have a very very positive record. So now were talking about the television audience, looking at papers that an employee sent that I haven't even seen myself, could you please address this?

Mr. Nichols stated it is hard for me to address something I have not even seen, but I can tell you for many years, the budgeting that we always, we always budget conservatively, with the 3% factor when we develop our budget on the defense side, we can certainly budget more, and the same with revenue, we have budgeted conservatively 3% less. We never exceed what the budget calls for. All you have to do is look at the financial plan, you can see that every year we have ended up with a surplus, which is a goal of budgeting. Now when Joe does the budgets, the budgets are submitted by department heads, and Joe goes through there and looks at the line items and estimates what he is used to in terms of all the different line items, and what he expects the ending balance to be. I would like to see, it is interesting that that document was not provided to the finance department, but I would love to see what was revised and look at how Joe's estimates at the end of the year and see what we are talking about. The budget has always met its expectation and we've always had an ending balance, it speaks for itself, we can always embellish whatever you want, but it sounds like someone is making a platform.

Mr. Slaughter stated he'd imagine that the finance department had already had.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Mr. Nichols stated he doesn't have it, and obviously it sounds like he's leaning towards establishing a platform for something, I guess I will have to look forward to your negative comments. That is all you have to offer. I haven't heard one positive comment from you yet, but I guess that is the platform you are going to run on. I really look forward to that.

Dr. Williamson gavelled Mr. Nichols to calm down.

Mr. Slaughter continued because \$60,000 cutting from the department, obviously I'm going to have a little discussion on that. It has nothing to do with the platform or whatever you think it is, my motivation is. My motivation is that Dr. Williamson voted out for \$62,000 for streets and parks, and I had comments on that. Mr. Nichols stated we worked hard on the financial plan and we tried to establish a financial plan and so far every experience I have had with you is nothing but negativity. It's unfortunately, because I am really trying hard to be positive, the budget does impact the citizens, and I tried very hard, but I guess you can offer any comments you want.

Mr. Slaughter stated I guess I was under the assumption that the finance department should have the same information I do.

Mr. Nichols stated you are the only Councilman that has not reached out to us to discuss the budget.

Mr. Slaughter answered I thought that is what we are doing tonight.

Mr. Nichols stated I'm trying to talk to you and see what your issues are.

Dr. Williamson gavelled and said gentlemen I'm not sure we are being productive right now, so I'm going to ask this discussion to be held off-line, if we have questions specific to the budget that helps us to make a decision on any particular department, I would ask us to get back to that.

Mr. Allison stated it is important at some point that we resolve this, these numbers are out there now, and I have wondered about the process Mr. Winder could address, what part Mrs. Grado has in writing the budget.

Mr. Winder stated in order to keep me on track when we spend money, we keep a record every month and we get a print out of what my balances, so that we don't over sign for things, it is a check and balance. We balance our own personal department. It is a monthly balance.

Mr. Allison stated these are pertinent facts that we need to have an answer to, it is important.

Mr. Noviello stated I think we are looking for more clarifications, and back to the amendment, I am having trouble accepting that motion, and from his own visualizing what they do and being on the scene, that crew is already stretched pretty thin. There has been a number times what an extra one or two people would've been very helpful. To take \$63,000 away and lose someone like the mechanic, I am guessing over the course of time, it would look bad.

Dr. Williamson explained that he was looking through the numbers and he knows that we can't cut streets and parks, they are jumping from job to job, to job to job to job, I was just defending them today in terms of the work they do. They work hard and we see them all over the city working hard and we know that they are understaffed and they are always asked to do more. And I know that we have small departments and some of our departments only have one person. He explained each department we have to get that 109 number to something to zero at least. That is a big problem too. And one of the only other ways that I can see to do that at this point, of course is increased taxes, increased taxes be on with the mayor's proposed increase already is.

Dr. Williamson withdrew his motion and Ms. Miele withdrew her second.

Ms. Miele stated it has become clear that we need another week to talk to each other and the administration and come back next week with some new ideas. If we are objecting to any cuts anywhere, that money has to come from somewhere so we have to figure out in the next week where it is coming from. I am not sure what to say to that. I am still trying to figure it out and all of us need to try and figure it out. I do not see a way for us to make a positive fund balance without increasing the tax rate over and above what is in this budget currently. We can discuss it now or we can wait and discuss it next week. I would love to hear the input of others members of City Council too.

Dr. Williamson stated if we are moving to an endpoint this evening, we have to make some kind of decisions to get that number to at least zero tonight. Then we can revisit those decisions next week.

Ms. Miele made a motion to increase to the tax rate of .75 mils.

Dr. Williamson asked Joe what the value of that is.

Mr. Pawlak answered \$87,519 and Dr. Williamson stated that would get us there. Dr. Williamson stated so basically we would be increasing page four 41100.

Ms. Miele made the motion to increase 41100 . Mr. Allison seconded but not indicating he would ever do it but it will gets us to zero.

Mr. Nichols stated then I would put that line item and revenue interest received, if you want to zero out put the difference in that line item.

Dr. Williamson stated so I have a motion and a second to increase the tax line item.

Ms. Miele stated she is not encouraging anyone to vote for a tax increase, she is interested in trying to make some sort of headway to balance the budget. Personally she would not back increasing the interest receive.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions on the motion relating to go to .75.

Mr. Henderson stated that he had said earlier in the night he doesn't see what else we can do but propose a tax increase. So this is that we are looking at it, and it is not enough, and were going to have to do more, and I can support this because I know we will need at least that.

Dr. Williamson stated his goal was to reduce the proposed tax increase.

Mr. Austin asked for clarification, it is just to change the current number in the budget and the tax rate is currently tabled, and if it is accepted it would have to be on tabled. This is just for the working budget.

Dr. Williamson stated he started the process with the idea that he wanted to find money to reduce, and he also came at it with trying to find the right balance between painful cuts in services to the city of Williamsport and painful increases to their taxes. Those are competing and most important priorities.

Dr. Williamson asked if there is any more questions? He asked for vote.

The motion carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 2.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted no.

There was discussion if we could pass this budget with the negative fund balance.

Mr. Grimes offered something but was inaudible.

Ms. Miele stated she understood about things but does not think we need to increase our income and will vote no, we need to find \$12,000.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Dr. Williamson made a motion to reduce in legislative contingency, City Council, line item 41842 by \$15,000.

Dr. Williamson stated we have set this money away for a variety of it issues coming up, and we cannot go into details of what that is satisfied and connected for.

Mr. Noviello seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the motion.

Motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Dr. Williamson asked if there was any more ideas before we close down the budget for tonight.

Mr. Henderson stated so the \$20,000 for the HR manuals, perhaps we can set that money aside, he also included maybe we could push off Shaw Place. He is just putting the ideas out.

Dr. Williamson asked the mayor if any of this was connected to labor work.

Mr. Pawlak stated, the HR manager will be here next meeting, if we could hold off and try to talk to her the next meeting.

Mayor Campana stated he appreciates everyone's patience, and tomorrow he will receive a check for \$27,000, and that should go to the bottom line, because Mr. Poorman is coming in with a check for \$25,000 and \$7500 will go to Shaw Place and the remaining amount he is advocating for the pavilion for Brandon Park because there's no place for the kids that are in summer camp to protect themselves from the sun. The objective is, I am a requesting an ERC meeting to discuss that check that we are receiving and also with the legacy fun.

Mr. Allison asked, next Tuesday?

Ms. Miele stated we will have a finance meeting that day, and there is public works and public safety. And if for some reason one of those two might meet there might be a conflict.

Mayor Campana stated so if you want to make that motion I am positive he is coming tomorrow.

Dr. Williamson stated it sounds like that will be a revenue line, so with that be revenue in 2018 or 2019?

Mayor Campana's stated we can cash it whenever we want it.

Mr. Pawlak stated in 2018 as revenue.

Dr. Williamson stated so we could eliminate that from the 2019 budget. From the budgetary standpoint we could improve the fund balance to 7500.

Mr. Henderson stated let's do it now while it's fresh in our mind, let's budget it right here and drop it to the budget line. **Mr. Henderson made the motion on page 20, line 76050, that would be zero out and reduced to zero. Mr. Miele seconded the motion.**

Motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any more comments.

Mrs. Katz stated, again this is a small item, but under the controller, there is training for \$300, have they ever used it?

Mr. Pawlak stated they don't use it.

Ms. Katz made a motion to reduce the line item 79530 to zero, (\$300). Mr. Henderson seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions.

Motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was six to 0. .

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted abstained, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the ordinance in first reading.

Motion was carried with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 1. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Ordinance of the City of Williamsport, County of Lycoming, & Commonwealth of PA Fixing the Tax Rate for 2019 (first reading) **TABLED EARLIER IN EVENING**

Dr. Williamson made a motion to remove this ordinance from the table. Ms. Miele seconded it.

Motion was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes.

Ms. Miele made a motion to increase the tax rate to 15.47 mils. Mr. Henderson seconded it.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the ordinance in first reading.

The ordinance was carried in first reading with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 2.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted no.

Resolution #8828

Resolution – Real Estate Penalty Exoneration

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Henderson made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Allison.

Mr. Grimes stated this is a resolution to exonerate \$118.79 from the tax bill of Linda Hakes, of High Street.

Dr. Williamson stated we received information about this prior so city Council is had a chance to ask all the questions. He asked for vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Resolution #8829

Resolution Awarding the Trash Removal Contract for Years 2019 & 2020 for the City of Williamsport

The City Clerk read the resolution.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Allison made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Winder stated this resolution is to award a trash removal contract, and finance did add some language in there. The new language states that the unit cost per container the attached proposal schedule of prices for an estimated total of a cost of \$44,955.36 +10% contingency without further Council authorization.

We added all the special events to this contract so it would make it better for budgeting reasons. We had two bidders, Fred Hamm and Bower Disposal. This year this is a two-year contract, as opposed to a one year contract. This was reviewed by finance.

Ms. Miele stated Finance did review this and forwarded it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. She did want to make note that the contract is two years this time and it does show us a significant amount of savings.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr.

Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Accept for filing

Finance Committee Minutes 08/28/18 & 9/11/18

Public Safety Minutes 11/06/18

Controller's Report October 2018

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

Mr. Allison made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

The minutes were carried with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0. All were in favor.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz voted yes, Mr.

Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 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, Dec. 10

12:00 PM Planning Commission

4:00 PM Recreation Commission

Tuesday, Dec. 11

1:00 PM Finance Committee

2:30 PM Public Works

3:30 PM Public Safety

Wednesday, Dec. 12

11:30 AM Redevelopment Authority

7:30 AM Leadership Lycoming (hosting)

Thursday, Dec. 13

7:30 PM City Council Meeting

[Meetings Held in Council Chambers Unless Otherwise Noted – [scr] = William Sechler Community

Room]

Adjournment

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions from members of Council.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions from the administration.

Mayor Campana, said good morning.

Mr. Grimes stated he thinks that there some legitimate answers to some of the concerns that came up this evening about the budget. Unfortunately, this is not a criticism, but it is your first time going to the budget, and you did not quite understand, and we let some of our emotions and our personalities get the best of us instead of just explaining those. I hate to see you guys come to the next meeting to say you can't do anything because it hasn't been explained to you, so hopefully it will give you some things to look at over the next week. In the back of your budget book, there should be actual numbers, line item by line item, and actual year to date which is going to line up fairly close with what you got from streets and parks.

That will not matching your budget will because that is estimated out through the end of the year. And certainly those numbers could be adjusted because we would rather be over rather than under because of the \$12,000 fund balance we have is gone. So I think there are some answers to those questions, and I think you can get those numbers from finance as where we are at line item by line item. So I think there some place to get you there to the next meeting. Nobody's trying to full anybody, nobody is trying to take advantage of you, it is just a process that can be sometimes complicated understand.

Janice Frank, City Clerk told Mr. Allison that we do not have an ERC scheduled for the end of the year and she offered to advertise it for him.

Ms. Miele stated since the Finance agenda might be fairly small, so maybe we could just bring it to finance rather than advertise it.

Mayor Campana stated will the other reason is three gentlemen approached me today and they want to have dialogue with city Council in regards to the expanded CBD on the western side of the city. I felt it would be appropriate because the other discussions took place in ERC, he felt it would be appropriate to have it there. So they went to come in and talk about it,

Dr. Williamson stated if it was the one issue I do agree with you but in some ways is clearly an ERC.

There was additional discussion how these gentlemen's properties were not included in the new area.

Mayor Campana invited them to the staff meeting today and stated that we want to fill up as many vacant properties as possible. The treasurer told him it so he did get new businesses, and live in the city so they pay into the wage tax.

Mr. Allison asked if they spoke to Mr. Knarr yet?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018

Mayor Campana stated yes they spoke at my staff meeting and they spoke with Gary Knarr. But they also want to talk to Council personally so you hear their views on it if it comes to the Council meeting next Thursday, it's almost like a done deal because you will be voting on something.

Mr. Allison stated he doesn't think we would make a decision without Mr. Knarr's opinion on this.

Mayor Campana stated that Mr. Knarr is open to this, and he wants Council's opinion.

Dr. Williamson stated the ordinance is coming up on the 13th, and has two readings, could they not come and sign up for limited courtesy of the floor and accomplish their goal? And then we could have Mr. Poorman's business run through finance.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions from members of the public.

Mr. Frank Stekuco, 619 First Ave. stated something has to be done right now, a friend of mine was pulling into Woodlands Bank a few weeks ago and wanted the panels blew up and hit his car, I think maybe so that in the paper. That was out of the clear blue, and if he had been a pedestrian it would've been worse. This building has an issue with its roof and I reported it a month ago. It has even been in the Sun Gazette although they didn't noted at the time. So pieces do blow off, and it must've hit the ground, and from what I understand from the administration nobody knows where it is. I would think that you want to get it fixed in a timely fashion which means weeks not months. Because if it does blow off and you've already been made aware of it publicly, I wouldn't be surprised if every elected official in this room would be guilty of criminal negligence. So maybe when somebody wants to put a fire under somebody and get on it. It looks ridiculous you have a piece of copper 150 feet in the air and is already half removed from the roof. That is criminal negligence. The fiber contractor, I would go to jail. So the chances are slim, but it happened to my body, it happened a block away. Things happen to be like this we didn't do something one day in the very next day something happens. It's on the record now so who is ever in charge are responsible I would suggest that you get on it, like yesterday. Before somebody else gets killed.

Adjournment

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mrs. Katz and seconded by Ms. Miele.**

Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 12:12 AM** "ayes".

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank, City Clerk