

**Thursday, January 4, 2018
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Jonathan Williamson brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, January 4, 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
Don Noviello, Councilman
Elizabeth Miele, Councilwoman absent
Joel Henderson, Councilman*

Absent:

Also, Present:

*Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor
Rebecca Haladay, City Engineer
Mr. William Nichols, Jr.
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Mr. Gary Knarr absent
Megan Page HR
Adam Winder
Dave Young, Police Chief
Sol. Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk,
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief
Mr. Joe Gerardi absent*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of December 7, & 14, 2017 was approved upon a motion from **and Mrs. Katz** a second from **Mr. Slaughter**. 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 was absent.**

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were no requests for limited courtesy of the floor.

Presentation – River Town Designation

Ms. Chelsea Myers introduced the people involved and that are speaking.

Jerry Walls, Chairman of the Board, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, stated since 2001 the SGP has been working to create the SG, a corridor of interconnected river towns, trails, parks, and conserved lands that link people to the natural and cultural heritage of the Susquehanna River region. The Susquehanna River Walk here in Williamsport is one of the first major components of the Susquehanna, providing connection to the River and opportunities for healthy living. Our River Town Program offers recognition and assistance to the Greenway communities that value the River as an asset not only for recreation, but for sustainable economic development and healthy living.

Alice Trowbridge, Heart of Williamsport Project Coordinator, stated in 2016 City Council passed a resolution to pursue designation as a Susquehanna Greenway River Town & to support underlying principles of the River Town Program including: Respect & work with the nature of the Susquehanna River, Connect with the River, Involve people with the River and with their River Town, Foster sustainable Economic Development of their River Town. City Council also affirms the larger goals by connecting people to nature, the river, community open spaces, and the downtown by making the community more pedestrian, bike and boat friendly. There will be a movie premiere "From the Heart of Williamsport" on February 9th at 6:00 PM at the Community Arts Center.

Ms. Trowbridge and Mr. Walls presented the new Designated SG River Town signs to Council President Jonathan Williamson and Mayor Campana.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2018

Dr. Williamson thanked everyone for putting this together and working so hard with the Administration, City Council and the citizens. He stated the City is a better place for all your hard work.

Mrs. Katz stated she wanted to thank everyone and she knows that everyone put a lot of time and effort and their heart and soul into the community. She mentioned Judy Oliniski who was present and noted what she does with the community. There is so much that people don't understand and realize what she has brought to the table for at least 20 years. There are times when we don't thank you all enough.

Mr. Allison said he is also thankful and pleased to see that there is a plan to move forward over the next six months and develop ideas and feels it is going to be a fruitful exercise. There is a lot of good things that are going on behind the scenes in the city that we will bear the fruit of later on. He stated the River is a big part of our lives, and many years ago it was a main place of recreation.

Dr. Williamson thanked everyone again stated that we are blessed to have that River out there.

Public Hearing – Inter-municipal Liquor License Transfer – 1431 High St. EZ-Mart

Dr. Williamson declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Lubin stated the city received an application from a local business that desires to transfer a liquor license from Lewis Township to the City of Williamsport. The property is the E-Z Mart at the corner of High St. and Wildwood Boulevard. Under the liquor code, the cities are required to approve the transfer MS it finds that it could have an adverse effect on their health, welfare, morals of that community or its residents. The owners of the business are here and they can explain what they're going to be doing.

(name of inaudible).....Manager of the High St. EZ-Mart. A year or so ago the laws have changed to allow convenient stores to retail alcoholic beverages, and license we like to transfer is an R license, our focus will be on package beverages, and beer.

Dr. Williamson stated his understanding was that for establishments like this that they would also be able to be required to make it available to drink beer on-site.

The Manager answered it is company policy and they will have a two drink minimum.

Mrs. Katz had a concern about security and cameras and how this will complement the area.

The manager said that all employees are trained and certified and we will make sure that beverages will not be available to underage people. There are security cameras. He stated he understood that his reputation is on the line.

Dr. Williamson asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of this. There was no one.

Dr. Williamson asked was anyone who would like to speak against this. There was no one.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote to close the public hearing.

The public hearing was closed by a vote of 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 was absent.

Resolution #8727

Resolution to Approve Transfer of Liquor License

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none he asked for a vote.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. 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 was absent.

Resolution #8728

Resolution to Approve Legal Services with Solicitor

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Lubin stated this agreement is exactly the same as last years except for a slight increase in the salary line item. It was reviewed by the finance committee.

Mr. Allison stated we reviewed this as well as the next resolution for the assistant solicitor. This is a pretty much standard boilerplate agreement that we had every year. There was only a little discussion and we passed it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. 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 was absent.

Resolution #8729

Resolution to Approve Legal Services with Asst. Solicitor

The City Clerk read the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Allison stated he had nothing further to add from Finance committee.

Dr. Williamson asked her vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. 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 was absent.

Resolution #8730

Resolution to Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Williamsport, & Williamsport Streets, Parks & Flood Control, Employees, AFSCME Local 2674, District Council 86, AFL-CIO

The City Clerk read the resolution.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2018

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion and a second on the resolution.

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

Mayor Campana stated before you, you have a resolution that is truly historic and I would like to applaud the team in negotiating, led by Megan, Bill Nichols, Dave Smith, and Adam on our team and also for the Streets and Parks union. This is truly historic because I think all of us have been speaking about this for a long time, legacy costs. This contract definitely addresses healthcare and pensions as well. It definitely discusses contributions in regards to healthcare and also a hybrid pension plan that was created by Mr. Nichols. It will be the second union that will be involved in the hybrid pension plan, the first union is the City Hall union.

Ms. Megan Page stated, this resolution to authorize the City of Williamsport to execute a contract with the Williamsport Streets, Parks & Flood Control employees. The contract ended on December 31, 2017, and the proposed amendment would include a four-year contract effective January 1, 2018 and running through December 31, 2021. To highlight a few other provisions, a main point that the administration was pushing was the employee cost-sharing health insurance which we were successful in getting. This affects both current and newly hired employees. Since we value the service and dedication of our current employees a tier structure was developed to award those with service to the City. The percentage of employee contributions will be determined on a 10-year tier structure based on the amount of service, years they had with the city based on January 2018. Another success was the hybrid pension plan will be for new employees starting after January 1 of 2018 and thereafter. In order to get some of the main driving points, we did have to bend in other areas. The wage increases or respective years are, 2 1/2%, 2%, 3%, to 3 1/2%. We anticipated 2019 to be a bit of a rough year and we were successful in getting a 2% wage increase for that year. We also did a revision for the new hire paperwork rest in schedule for the first two years of employment. Currently it is 80%, 90% and then 100%, and we have moved it to 90%, 95% and that 100%. This allows us to stay competitive in the market and the pool from more qualified applicants. We will see that there is an increase in the longevity payments. The five year increments have doubled for those early years and additional increments were added for senior and long-term employees. The previous contract at 24 years of service in terms longevity. She continued to explain an article on safety and job prescription lenses so we have allowed our members to purchase a pair of safety lenses because we do value our employees. They must meet the American National safety standards. Another article added was the family and medical leave of absence. This does follow the federal leave act. Another increase was for life insurance for active members only. It was \$25,000 and we are proposing \$35,000. This was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Mayor Campana also wanted to add an extra thanks to Joe Pawlak, and wanted to add that himself and Department heads and At Will employees will participate and be engaged in the same type of health care participation as this contract. If that is something that other elected officials would like to do, you are more than welcome.

Dr. Williamson asked what is the best mechanism, for elected officials to participate in the healthcare? Is that an individual decision?

Mr. Lubin replied it is an individual decision, you cannot just reduce it, however the next year it will be established. That could be placed in there.

Dr. Williamson stated he will follow the HR department more formally and stated he will be coming to see her stating it is the right thing to do and he hopes his colleagues will join him, and he asked her to ask the Controller and the Treas. aware so they may participate as well.

Mr. Allison stated we did review this at Finance committee and went through the changes. We did ask for dollar figures and we will be given them from Finance Dept. We did talk about article 4, and added a sentence that states it is agreed that is the right and responsibility of management to establish new jobs classifications or eliminate existing classifications and establish the pay rate for such classification. There were a lot of things that were common practices but it never been talked about, some of those things are taking care of so it keeps them from ever becoming cloudy. And in 2018 and 2019, there will be no layoffs for this bargaining unit. He continued to explain other areas in the contract that Megan addressed, they hybrid plan and the health plan. He thanked the union for all their help. Finance did forward this to the full body Council with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Henderson stated there is a lot we are given that he appreciates the focus of this contract is long-term. So we are thinking down the road, and that is very important, and we will get tools to our successors so that they will be able to work with this. He thanked everyone for the negotiations and for the sake of the long term goals he felt this was good.

Mr. Nichols stated the hybrid pension plan is a long-term transition and hopefully with all city bargaining units, maybe at some other point in time he will have a handout to better describe what it is all about. He spoke about the defined pension contribution and how it would work. There a lot of good points to it in the most positive is it relieves the pressure on the city in terms on meeting its requirements as it relates to the MMO.

Dr. Williamson stated 10 or 20 years ago in terms of contracts, oftentimes you would see a short term gains sacrificing a long-term future. He felt this contract reverses this in the right way, maybe we are paying a little bit more upfront, and the budget cost will be increased this year and next year, but in 10 or 20 years we are going to be better off as far as having employees sharing in the cost of premiums. There are lots of companies around the country that have changed how they had provided insurance to their employees. So overall he felt this was a good contract for the city. He asked for a vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with six yes roll call votes. 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 was absent.

Certificates of Appropriateness – HARB

Item 2. McCormick Law Firm
835 West Fourth Street

- A. On the front stone building remove the existing K style gutter system and replace with 1/2 round style gutters and round downspouts, painted or finished with a color similar to the existing.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2018

- B. On the rear garage/carriage house, remove the existing K style gutter system and replace with new K style OR ½ round aluminum gutters and downspouts, painted or finished with a color similar to existing.

Item 3. Douglas & Sheila Hain
935 Vine Avenue

- A. Demolish two sets of existing brick steps (front and side porches) Replace them with new pressure treated wood steps, similar size to existing, with bull nosed treads and closed risers. If needed enclose step sides with wooden framed tight weave lattice or solid wood. Paint gray to match porch deck.
- B. Install either a black pipe railing (if Codes approves) or a wood railing with tightly spaced square spindles that are not face nailed, and a double top / bottom handrail

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to approve the HARB Certificates of Appropriateness

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

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the certificates of appropriateness.

The certificates of appropriateness were carried with six yes roll call votes. 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 was absent.

Accept for filing

Controller's Report Nov. 2017

Public Works 09/12/17

Codes Report August & Oct 2017

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to accept these for filing.

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

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the minutes.

The minutes were accepted for filing with six yes roll call votes. 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 was absent.

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 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, Jan 8	12:00 PM Planning Commission
Wednesday, Jan 10	4:00 PM Williamsport Charter Commission
Monday, Jan 15	CITY HALL CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan. 16	12:00 PM Blighted Property
	6:30 PM HARB
Wednesday, Jan 17	4:00 PM Williamsport Charter Commission
Thursday, Jan. 18	10:00 AM Board of Health
	7:30 PM City Council Meeting
Monday, Jan. 22	5:30 PM Williamsport Government Study

Commission

No other Committees have been established at the time of this Agenda.

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

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from members of Council.

Dr. Williamson stated the committees have now been formed and they are in the process of scheduling the dates and times of the meetings, so be on the lookout for the new schedules. In charging the committees, one of the things that he had asked them to do was to follow up on some of the extensive discussions at budget time, regarding that thinking about finding the right balance between increasing revenues, and reducing expenses in whatever way we can identify and working with the administration. We like to do that here starting in January so we can save money and plan far ahead for the 2019 budget. So he has asked the committees to each work with the administration and in particular the Department heads to systematically work through that task identifying responsibilities, identifying personnel and how they map onto those responsibilities and better understand so that we can all figure out what makes sense so that maybe we can combine some the responsibilities and as a last resort to state where a reduction in staff might be necessary. If we do it starting now and work together, we can reduce the pain is much as possible, both to the taxpayers, and the citizens and of course to our city staff that we value and admire and would never want to do anything to damage them or their families. So only by working together in a collaborative way can we accomplish those tasks simultaneously. So while the committees should work on pieces of the equation for the next 12 months.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the administration.

Mayor Campana stated he appreciates the comments in regards to next year's budget, he stated it will be a challenge but he believes that everyone is up for the task. In two weeks ago he gave the directive to all Department heads in regards to spending and capital projects, and especially in City Hall, and we are in a process of creating a list, a priority list for City Council of spending. So we will have that to you by the end of the month or early February, but we are working on it immediately so we can continue to plan for next year. We are also working on alternative ways of bringing some additional dollars into the city, so if there's any other opportunities, and I would welcome an ERC meeting, all of us could put our heads together to see if there's other ways to bring some additional monies into the city as well. I just wanted to say we are starting off the new year and we would like to start off in a positive new relationship with City Council. So he has his

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2018

hand out to Council as well. The most important thing is Council Henderson has said, that we are here for the city and I welcome their participation.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the general public.

Ralph Mark Stephens, part of the Government Study Commission, wanted to inform everyone that they have a GSC meeting on Saturday at 2:00 O'clock at Susquehanna Law Group, One West Third St and everyone is welcome to attend.

Scott Miller 822 Tucker St. stated that he wanted to welcome Mr. Slaughter to the Council. One of the things that he would like to read from the paper, "I am really optimistic about it because the voters sent such a clear message because it is what they wanted to see something happen, said Council President Jonathan Williamson. It is an exciting opportunity for introspection by members of this community, both about the particular form of government, where it stands today, what the city voters want the City to become, Dr. Williamson said. He said the process should remain transparent and provide input for residents. I think we will be an informative communitywide discussion Williamson said." Dr. Williamson, you have a degree in political science, and you know a little bit more than even the average councilperson may know, you have studied this for a number of years. Why did you and the solicitor work in secrecy per month on the change in government ordinance? That's what I heard firsthand, of the people, by the people, for the people. Did the Council members in favor of this collect 300 signatures if the home rule people did. Why did we include a home rule as one of the many of options for said commission to choose from? The facts as I know it, you on this to be a knock against the Mayor. You didn't want home rule as an option. Or allowed as a question on the ballot, if you could've stopped it, from what I'm to understand. And they changed in Council/Mayor commission wasn't from the will of the people, it was started by small group of people against the Mayor. If you don't like the Mayor or the Mayor's position, then run for it and win! Go eliminate your position! But I did learn something, I only need about 300 signatures of registered voters to put a question on the ballot, do you think I would do that? What do the people think about gambling in the town?

Adjournment

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Mr. Henderson and seconded by Mr. Slaughter.**
Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 8:32 PM** "ayes".

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank, City Clerk