

**Thursday, January 17, 2019  
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Jonathan Williamson brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Randy Allison 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 ABSENT  
Mr. Joe Gerardi  
Mr. William Nichols, Jr.  
Mr. Gary Knarr  
Damon Hagan, Asst. Chief  
Sol. Norm Lubin  
Janice Frank, City Clerk,  
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief  
Adam Winder  
Nicholas Grimes, Treasurer*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes dated December 13, 2018 & 1/03/19 were approved upon a motion from **and Mrs. Katz** a second from **Ms. Miele**. **All were in favor. 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.**

**Limited Courtesy of the Floor**

There was no courtesy of the floor.

Appointments

**Recreation Committee**

Kayla Durmmond, 1421 Park Ave, Williamsport is appointed to a 4-year term commencing 1/17/19 – 1/01/23

Ms. Novinger gave a brief biography of Kayla Durmmond and stated she will be an invaluable asset. Dr. Williamson asked for motion and second to approve this appointment to the Recreation commission.

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

Ms. Miele stated the Finance Committee was fortunate enough to interview Ms. Durmmond and we are all familiar with the work that she has done on the job. We had a short and pleasant discussion with her and she is excited to serve.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the appointment.

**The appointment 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.**

**Public Hearing – Willow View Personal Care Home**

Dr. Williamson declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Knarr stated this is a request from Willow View Personal Care Home for an expansion, it is located at 124 Emery St. and according to the Pennsylvania Code, anytime you have a conditional use you are required to have a public hearing to allow those to speak as far as any questions or concerns. At this time I can answer any questions.

Dr. Williamson asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of this.

There were none.

Dr. Williamson asked if there was anyone who was supposed to this condition.

There was none.

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

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

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

**The public hearing was closed 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 changed the order of the agenda.**

**Conditional Use – Willow View Personal Care Home 124 Emery St**

Dr. Williamson asked for motion and a second on the conditional use.

**Mr. Allison made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele**

Mr. Knarr stated this is located at 124 Emery St. and they are requesting to expand their current use to a 27 bed facility. It is located within the ML zoning district, the proposed land development would be approval from 27 to 29 bed facility. In January 2002, City Council ran a conditional use for the nine bed facility, then in November 2006 they were granted an expansion again for 18 bed facility, and in August 2008 they were granted for another nine bed expansion bringing a total to 27 beds. In June 2010, the facility was granted an expansion of the building itself so they can operate the 27 bed facility. They are requesting to expand from 27 beds to 29. The Planning Commission did review this and they did not have any oppositions to it. Dr. Williamson asked if there had been any pushback from neighbors or anyone complaining about this. Mr. Knarr stated we've had no opposition, and it is requested for inspection by the State so we have no concerns.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the conditional use.

**The conditional use was approved with seven yes roll call votes. The vote was 7 to 0.**

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**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**

**Lot Consolidation Subdivision – Presbyterian Home -800 Louisa St.**

Mr. Knarr stated this is a lot consolidation from Presbyterian Home, they are located at 800 Louisa St., to consolidate two parcels. It is located in the R2 zoning district. The current land use is an existing care home in the vacant lot. It has been a vacant lot with grass planted for some time. One of the reasons as required, they are requesting to consolidated so they can use both parcels for the personal care home. They will put up a pavilion and a walk area. They are required to consolidate that for the use. It was reviewed by both City and County Planning Commissions with positive recommendations.

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

**Mr. Noviello made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Allison.**

**Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the lot consolidation.**

**The lot consolidation 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**

**Lot – Addition Subdivision – Knight-Confer 1209 R. Race Street**

Mr. Knarr stated this is a proposed subdivision and lot and on 1209 Race St.. It is located within the R3 Zoning district. The current land use is an existing residential dwelling. The proposed sub addition would subdivide a lot dividing 3557 ft.<sup>2</sup> from the residency. The residual would contain 12,220 ft.<sup>2</sup>. Lot one would be added to one parcel. The proposed plan does not meet the requirement setbacks, or the zoning lot first size wise in an R3 zoning district. In December 2018, the Zoning Hearing did grant them both a variance for that. The Lycoming County Planning Commission did review the plans as well as the city planning commission. The comments were addressed by the Zoning Hearing Board who did grant the variance. The 3557 ft.<sup>2</sup> has two sheds, one is a dilapidated garage which they plan on tearing down to meet codes. This is their parking facility, and they may use parking because they have to plow the snow in that area. One of the uses for this is to expand the parking. It was reviewed by County and it was addressed and the variance was granted.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion on the lot addition.

**Mr. Allison made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Noviello.**

**The lot addition\subdivision 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**

**Bill #1720-19**

**Ordinance Amending Article 917 Designated as Phillip E. Preziosi Park(first reading)**

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

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

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

Mr. Gerardi stated we have been trying to clean up ordinances over the last few years, we are updating them. The designation for this particular park was incorrect so I wanted to make sure it was correct. We had to change the boundaries. It is the Newberry Park located in the Newberry section. The change we made was it is called Cherry Alley, we changed to include the whole park. It was reviewed by Public Works.

Mrs. Katz stated we did review this and all of it and it is a little bit of housekeeping, and it was brought to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any questions on this. He asked for a vote on the ordinance.

**The ordinance was carried in first reading 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**

**Bill #1720-19**

**Ordinance Amending Article 321 Peddlers & Solicitors(first reading)**

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

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

**Mr. Allison made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.**

Mr. Gerardi stated that all council members were given revised copies of everything that was changed. The first thing we did was repeal the Center City Downtown law. So we are revising that and we are going to take that out and put in the central business district, because there is really not a Center City Mall. Also we revised the section about soliciting our newspaper routes, etc., we did eliminate the milk delivery because no one delivers milk anymore. We also changed it that the police chief will collect the fines for some of the fees. Our solicitor did review this.

Mr. Henderson stated Public Safety did review this, and we are basically changing what department is going to have to review this, and it should be the police department because those that are obtaining licenses, need to get a background check and therefore it is the police department and so it makes sense. We had some conversations about some different things and we send this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Ms. Miele asked if we have something in place at the police for background checks in place.

Mr. Gerardi stated yes we do have that at the police station, we have forms at the police station with the requirements. Our background check deals with only Pennsylvania, there could be an individual who comes here from Ohio, therefore it will need a different background check.

Mr. Allison asked how do we enforce this or advertise this and make it known? But they required to carry any identification with them that would verify that they have a peddlers our solicitors license?

Mr. Gerardi stated just there is, it says they are required to carry the license we provide for them. If you are a resident and they knock on your door, you can ask them to look at it, and a police officer or anyone

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on the street can come up to them and ask for one. It will be stated that it will be known when they are doing it, and the times that it will be done.

Mrs. Katz stated we are getting into the political season and politicians will be going door-to-door, should they not even have a piece of paper that states a license?

Mr. Gerardi stated well we talked about that at the meeting, and they felt it was a nonprofit that they should not be required to have a license. We discussed it and the overall consensus was no we did not think it was necessary.

Dr. Williamson stated in reading through 46-year-old language, it states the police chief will have the ability to revoke the license, isn't there a procedure for appealing that revoking of license? Is that something we should review going forward?

Mr. Lubin answered they would have the right under local agency lost to appeal it. The local agency would cover it. Realistically there would have to be cause.

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

**The ordinance was carried in first reading 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**

**Bill #1721-20**

**Ordinance Amending Article 117.1 Fee Schedules (first reading)**

The City Clerk read the ordinance.

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

**Mr. Noviello made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Slaughter.**

Mr. Gerardi stated this is an ordinance that we revised our fee schedule for most of the fees that are charged in the city. We try to revise this once a year at this time. Regular building fee will go from \$13-\$14. On the next page, the zoning book is \$60, the cost was raised because the book is online. We never had a storm water review fee, but when people come in for storm water management has to go through zoning and our engineering department so the fee is now hundred and \$75. Driveway permits are \$60, we tried to raise that for street cuts. The peddlers license will be \$30 per month, it used to be \$15. He reviewed the rest of the changes in the fee schedules. This was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Ms. Miele stated Finance did review this and send it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. There is not a whole lot to say on this, and some of the places the engineer has to go out twice.

Mr. Henderson asked if the peddlers license was \$15 a month, and Mr. Gerardi answered that was per month, and per year it was \$100.

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

**The ordinance was carried in first reading 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**

**Resolution #8835**

**Resolution Authorizing a Sub recipient Agreement Between the City & Firetree Place**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson added for a motion for a adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. Pawlak stated the resolution before you is to approve a sub recipient agreement with Fire Tree Place in the amount of \$6000. This was approved in 2018 Community Development and HOME projects. The funds will be utilized for salary for four part-time counselors who administer an afterschool academic and recreation program for low to moderate income children in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The attached agreement outlines the terms in which they will receive their funding and include scope of services, time performance, the budget, etc. This was reviewed by the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated this was reviewed by Finance committee and it was forwarded to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. As noted we actually already approved this funding back in 2017, for the 2018 budget year, funding does not arrive until the last quarter of 2018. So we additionally have funded Fire Tree Place for 2019. Fire Tree had to submit documentation for the funds. Most of our discussion centered around the question on the success of this program.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were other comments or questions from members of council.

Mr. Allison stated we also talked about the tutoring and the interaction.

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.**

**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 #8836**

**Resolution Authorizing a Subrecipient Agreement Between the City & Lycoming County SPCA**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson added for a motion for a adopt the resolution

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

Mr. Pawlak stated this sub recipient agreement with the SPCA is in the amount of \$5,000. The Lycoming County SPCA awards towards the neutering and spay of the low income residents. The voucher program is designed to offer reduced rates for spaying and neutering as an incentive for low income earners who might not be able to afford the operations. The SPCA will collect the income information to verify the participation for the voucher program. This has the same terms and conditions as the previous agreement and was reviewed with the finance committee.

Ms. Miele stated we do receive quite a bit of documentation on the success of the SPCA. Finance did review this and send it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. We have increased the amount over the last couple of years.

Mr. Henderson wanted to note that this is an increase from our previous years, that we been able to used in this way and that is good because we are well aware that it is a major need in our city. We would really

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encourage residents to take advantage of this program to keep at bay as much as possible the population of cats in the city.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution 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**

**Resolution #8837**

**Resolution Uncollected Real Estate Taxes for 2018**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson added for a motion for a adopt the resolution

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

Mr. Grimes stated this is to authorize turning over \$913,847.40 of uncollected 2018 real estate taxes to the county tax claim bureau. This is something we do with uncollected real estate taxes at the end of the year so that they can be collected.

Dr. Williamson asked if there was any comments or questions.

Mr. Grimes stated we collect about 93% of the taxes.

Dr. Williamson asked for a vote on the resolution.

**The resolution 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**

**Resolution #8838**

**Resolution Exonerating the City Treasurer from Collection of 2018 Real Estate Taxes**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson added for a motion for a adopt the resolution

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

Mr. Grimes stated now that you have approved the unpaid taxes to be given to the county tax claim bureau, this next resolution just exonerates me to be able to collect the same amount of taxes.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the resolution.

**The resolution 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**

**Resolution #8839**

**Resolution Approving Letter of Agreement between the City & LHU for a Spring Intern – Recreation Dept.**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson added for a motion for a adopt the resolution

**Mr. Allison made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Noviello.**

Ms. Novinger stated she was approached by a gentleman named Coleman Hamilton who is currently going through the recreation management program at Lock Haven University. Part of his requirements to graduate this May is that he must complete 400 hours of practical work experience. He thought he would be a good fit for office. Attached is his resume and there's no monetary exchange for him, he will be receiving college credit and I think he will be a great fit for the office.

Mr. Noviello asked if this comes with an Act 33 clearance? She answered yes.

Ms. Miele stated this did come before finance and we send it to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation. The University takes care of everything.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the resolution.

**The resolution 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**

**Resolution #8840**

**Resolution Agreement for Legal Services with City Solicitor**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson added for a motion for a adopt the resolution

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

Mr. Lubin stated the next two items on the agenda are the annual contracts between the City, Casale & Bonner, and the McCormick Law Firm. The only change in the agreement is that it sets forth the scope of work and puts a little more detail of what we been doing over the years anyway. Beyond that there's no real changes and this covers both of the agreements. It was reviewed by Finance.

Ms. Miele stated it was reviewed by Finance and we were pleased to see the added information on the contracts, because we may not always have the same solicitors and we should have a list of the duties that are being performed for us. We appreciated the additional work that went into the contract and the additional effort from the solicitors and our city staff. We talked about a not to exceed element in the resolution. But Mr. Lubin said it doesn't matter because we cannot exceed the number anyway. So we did move forward without the dollar amount, not listing the specific amount. Finance did forward this to the full body of Council with a positive recommendation.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any comments or questions from Council.

**The resolution 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**

**Resolution #8841**

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**Resolution Agreement for legal Services with Asst. City Solicitor**

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson added for a motion for a adopt the resolution.

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

Mr. Lubin had nothing further to add.

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the resolution.

**The resolution 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 he still misses Mr. Grado when he used to say "nothing further to add".

Accept for Filing:

Controller's Report Nov. 18, 2018  
Finance Committee Meeting 10/02/18 & 10/9/18  
Public Works Minutes 09/25/18  
Public Safety Minutes 10/09/18

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

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

Dr. Williamson asked for vote on the minutes.

**The minutes were accepted for filing 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**

Announcements

There will be an executive session following this Council meeting in the matter of personnel. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2019 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. 21	City Hall Closed
Tuesday, Jan 22	11:00 AM Historical Preservation Committee
	12:00 PM Planning Commission
	3:30 PM ERC Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 29	1:00 PM Finance Committee
	2:30 PM Public Works
	3:30 PM Public Safety
	7:00 PM Citizen's Corp
Thursday, Jan 31	7:30 PM City Council Meeting

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

**Room]**

Mr. Allison stated the ERC meeting will be canceled because there's nothing for the agenda. Mrs. Katz stated on January 30 at 3:15 there will be an AD HOC meeting on residency.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any comments from members of Council.

Mr. Allison stated just briefly, he didn't want to open a can of worms, but he just wanted to revisit something from our last meeting, unfortunately the mayor is not here tonight & unfortunately he could not attend, he was out town tonight I guess. In any case, there's been a lot of questions and the public and there has been articles in the paper and a lot of speculation about the basketball committee, Memorial Park committee and the members and the people being named in the paper. We broached the conversation two weeks ago without knowing any names, no one was targeted and we had no idea, no names were offered at that time. The questions we asked were surely procedural and legal.. And if the committee is going to go forward, and whatever it is, those questions still stand, the ballot questions. Unfortunately some individuals were mistakenly named as being on that committee. They have said so publicly. On behalf of the City, I am offering an apology for anyone who has been offended, or their family hurt in some way. That was certainly never our intention. I think there's an orderly, good way to do this kind of thing. I think that's what we want to see on Council, I don't want us speak for everybody, but I do know how the councilmembers, we continually talk about processes and procedures. If you follow the right procedure, and follow all competent, well-thought-out procedure, it tends to mitigate the opportunity for these kind of things to happen. I think that is what we want to see going forward. We are putting the hoops back up, I think that's a very good thing, we have to make sure it is successful. We have to do everything in our power to make sure it is successful. And we need to engage in relationships, in conversations and communications with people. We can't just offer rules and regulations for people to adhere to. We need to connect on a person-to-person basis and with groups of people, that not only we know are going to be using the courts, but involved in some way. That is the kind of process I think we all want to see put in place, and I think the community does too. I don't think people are against basketball. I was at the town hall meeting years ago when the reasons were put forward for taking the hoops down. Let's just say, I wasn't totally convinced that we gave our best effort at that point to mitigate any problems that existed, whether they were perceived problems are real problems. I am very adamant, myself and I believe others are too, that we do this right and that it be done in a good procedural manner, so then it will be a win-win for everybody involved. Thank you for your the time.

Dr. Williamson stated he will take the opportunity by first agreeing with everything Mr. Allison said. It is when you get the procedures right, when you get the process right, you more often than not get the outcome right. In this case any observer within the city can see the process was not followed in any way that made sense. It was kind of shoot from the hip, and maybe that works in some cases but in this case it doesn't. So we ask questions, we had no idea who the mayor two weeks ago was claiming these people had reached out to him, but then in fact we were told that it was not anyone reaching out to him, it was him reaching out to others to participate on the committee and apparently based on the public announcements

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since then, not everyone that had been reached out to actually agreed to do it. But the committee and its makeup, the individuals on it, I don't even think that was the heart of our questions a couple weeks ago. It was really about the procedures that were in place and the goals that the mayor had for the committee. I personally said and it was accurately reported in the paper, we had two different messages. One, that they would be active participants in the park, we could use different words, in essence policing and overseeing the activities in Memorial Park. And at the same time we are hearing they would not be engaging with the participants of the park, but instead they would be informal advisors to the mayor. I think what I said in the paper and by all the questions from members of Council, it is one thing if it is informal advisors to the mayor, find. He can talk to anyone he wants, for anybody he chooses and get advice, and choose to take the advice from anybody he chooses. But, if individuals are representing the city, then we have a liability that we have to ensure. So that we don't expose taxpayer dollars to issues of liability. And so there are normal procedures you put into place to have these people be protected under the city's liability insurance including members of the informal organization. And if they are going to be interacting directly with the public, especially if the public is not 18 years or older, which are many users of the park,, you need to put clearances and other procedures in place. We were simply asking those questions and we were getting two sets of answers. And so that's where our follow-up questions came from, and the mayor passed along documentation to several organizations over the past week to try to clarify that. Including City Council, we received the same documents tonight, to try and make sure that our original concerns were addressed, and the motivation was behind the creation of the document. Having read that, I intended to ask the mayor, and he's not here tonight, so I can't, for clarity about our original questions. Because as his document says, this is informal advisory committee that will meet with the mayor to periodically discuss their opinions and recommendations, and therefore no clearances are needed. Okay, fine, if it stopped there, but in the next paragraph, It says members of the committee will communicate proper expected behaviors at the court with basketball participants and families through opportunities at church functions. My interpretation of that is, by extension, as representatives of the city. All it doesn't matter where there interacting with you, if they are representing the city, my interpretation is they require clearances. And so even the lack of clarity that we received two weeks ago, and the lack of clarity that we saw in the paper over the last couple of weeks, continues in the document he provided, and since he wasn't able to be here it'll be another occasion for us to seek that clarity, but I am still not quite clear what his goals are or how that organization will achieve those goals. To me, who is a member of the organization, is an entirely separate issue, and he can choose, who he would like. That is not an issue to me. The issue to me is process and procedure in protecting the city from liability.

Mr. Henderson stated just add on, there is an advisory committee, we have a recreation commission for that purpose to offer that advice and to help with those decisions. And maybe that is part of the disappointment as well, because that avenue is available currently. So we'd like to see as much transparency as possible, and that is a perfect way to offer that transparency. I think maybe that is also another part of the issue, but I look forward to discussions in the future and see what the plan is going forward. I would agree with Councilman Allison, this is a win, we are glad to have the basketball hoops and our young people able to utilize those hoops. Let's go forward here in a transparent way.

Dr. Williamson asked if there was any comments from the administration.  
There was none.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any comments from the general public.

Irish Griffin, 1546 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., she stated she had this all written out and for the mayor, since he is not here, you guys just took the words off of my paper.... She stated her grandson knew what she was coming in here for tonight, but he is young and thought that City Council were judges. All of you said this exactly the way I'm going to say it. My reason for being here tonight is to speak about the hoops. I will first would like to thank the mayor, who is not here, for receiving a revelation about the hoops, and is now acting on it. Now what city Council spoke about in the Sun Gazette as far as him moving too soon to put the hoops back up, yes procedures and goals are necessary. That I must agree on. I think that there ought to be a few meetings which I am aware is in process, and also gathering a committee, which is also in progress. Which I do not think that it is a bad idea. The reason I say I, is I do believe I speak for the majority of West and in the city at large, so I say yes to the hoops. They are well worth the taxpayers dollars, they will be used seven days a week, spring, summer and fall. And as for drug sales and violence, that does not happen as people say it does. You can count the violence and gun shooting on one finger. The shooting that occurred at the park was on necessary and observe, I knew both the young men, the perpetrator and the victim. They were stupid and it shouldn't happen and it was over a young lady. Not drugs. The video that was made in the park was also on necessary and absurd, the guy was an idiot making a video in the park, but no drugs were sold there, it was just his crazy video that he made. So with that, I am done, the hoops, they are worth it. The hoops may not be worth it to some individuals but they are for the community. Just about every male here has played hoops in Memorial Park. So I say bring the hoops back and thank you very much. Have a great evening.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Meeting adjourned** upon motion by **Mrs. Katz and seconded by Mr. Slaughter.**

Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 8:41 PM** "ayes".

**Submitted by:**

**Janice M. Frank, City Clerk**